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**February 1992** **Vol. 45 • No. 2** **Issue 503**


## ARTICLES

***—True Reports of the Strange and Unknown—***


**Hypnotism & Mind Control**.....Anita Evangelista 48

*You can be controlled against your conscious will—with or without hypnosis. Here is historical evidence of this fact, along with the knowledge of how to follow your own will.*

**My God! It's Shuck!**.....D. Tyler Hendricks 58

*It was a thousand-year-old Viking raider's dog. Yet the author saw it one night many years ago while walking along a coastal road in England. Reality or illusion? You read the story and decide for yourself.*

**An Introduction to Astrology**.....Linda Chamlee Black 61

*A popular astrologer shares knowledge of her science in a way that is both enjoyable and easy to understand. Here is Part One in which she shares the fascinating history of astrology.*

**Midnight Messages**.....Betty Morris 76

*She was distraught over her mother's death. For her there was no peace of mind. Then several dream visitations from her mother's spirit gave her the will to go on.*



**NOTICE TO READERS: All articles in FATE** are true and are verified by documentation and/or notarized statements. Comments made in columns, *Report From the Readers* or in articles where they are obviously the ideas of the writer, are the opinions of the writers and may not represent the opinion of FATE magazine and Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd.

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## STORIES

*—Dramatic Accounts of Actual Experiences—*

**True Mystic Experiences**.....**The Readers** 83
*Guardian angels are on duty for several of our readers.*
**My Proof of Survival**.....**The Readers** 89
*The ghost of Uncle Jim appears to his niece while she babysits.*

## FEATURES

*—News, Opinion and Notes on Unusual Topics—*

**I See By the Papers**.....Donald Michael Kraig 5
*A farewell from our Editor-In-Chief, plus other notes.*
**Psychic Frontiers**.....Loyd Auerbach 19
*Conduct psychic dream experiments in your home.*
**Our Strange World**.....Mark Chorvinsky 35
*Giant turtles and other alien animals are here in the U.S.A.*
**UFO Reporter**.....Jerome Clark 39
*Ancient astronauts and modern conspiracies join here.*
**Beyond the Known**.....John Keel 44
*A phantom alphabet changes our world.*
**Steinerisms**.....Paul Steiner 75
*Gardening efforts pay off with gold coins.*
**Valentine's Day Martyrs**.....John Ellis Sech 79
*The* real *reason why this holiday was established.*
**Astro Almanac**.....Anne Lyddane 81
*The best days to perform any task.*
**Reader of the Month**..... 100
*Here's a FATE reader ready to hear from you.*
**Report From the Readers**.....The Readers 103
*One reader congratulates us while others ask for your assistance.*
**Book Reviews**..... 106
*Jacques Vallee's controversial new book plus reports on rascally gurus, mysteries from ancient Michigan and more.*
**Classified Advertising**..... 115
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**Cover art by Randy Asplund-Faith**

Here is a brief mention of just a few of the articles that will appear in future issues of FATE:

• Do you believe in werewolves? Are they man, myth or monster? Learn about them in FATE.

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—UFO Reporter
—Beyond the Known
—Our Strange World
—Psychic Frontiers
—Astro Almanac
—Book Reviews
—Report From the Readers
—True Mystic Experiences
—My Proof of Survival
—Reader of the Month

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# I SEE BY THE PAPERS

*By Donald Michael Kraig*

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:**

*Magick is not something you do, magick is something you are.*

*—Donald Michael Kraig in* Modern Magick

*Editor's note: Donald Michael Kraig, Editor-in-Chief of FATE magazine since June 1989, has decided to leave FATE to explore other ventures. Here are a few of his departing comments.*

In 1988, FATE was purchased by Llewellyn Publications (now Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd.) from the previous owners, Clark Publishing Company. Things were not well at FATE. In a period where magazines were doing well, FATE was suffering from a lack of energetic enthusiasm. Its economics were poor and circulation, which in the mid '70s had risen to over 160,000, was well under 100,000 and dropping.

We felt that FATE needed a change, some new blood, if it was to survive. I was chosen to lead that change.

For the next several months I flew weekly from Llewellyn's headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Chicago, Illinois. During this time I learned as much as I could about the magazine. After a few days in Chicago I would return to St. Paul, report on what I had learned and work on my other job for Llewellyn, editor of their bi-monthly catalog for consumers and their quarterly catalog for dealers. The schedule was grueling.

Finally, we brought all of the physical property that belonged to FATE out to St. Paul (yes, I helped in the packing and the moving). We quickly moved to sort everything out.

**NEW PROBLEMS ARISE**

In order to save time and money we had to use the latest computer techniques. This meant that we had to redesign every element of FATE. We had to develop new protocols for the production of the magazine. We changed the typeface to a more modern and more readable one. We used some of the latest in computer typesetting and page-layout software to bring you the

NEW TIMES
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best possible magazine with a reduction by almost 50 per cent in the number of people who worked on FATE.

We redesigned columns and headlines. We changed the format to one with a spine. We also brought back the illustrated covers which had graced FATE in the '40s and '50s. Through all of this we had to keep to the printing schedule so that you never missed an issue.

### CIRCULATION

The first person hired from outside of Llewellyn was Valerie Bowden, our circulation manager. Under her guidance, with some excellent advertising writing by Tracy Whartman and with an improved product in content and appearance, FATE started to move. The circulation, which had dropped to under 70,000 turned up. Within 18 months circulation had increased to over 125,000.

FATE had not merely made a comeback, it was alive and vital once again. All of us were proud at what we had accomplished. Our 500th issue was a true publishing milestone.

### THE FUTURE

Since late 1988 I had quite literally "lived" FATE. I thought about it all the time—how it could be improved, articles we could do and the type of financing

needed to help FATE expand and reach the number of people who would want FATE if they simply knew more about it.

The letters I received from you, our readers, have been very supportive. Not just of me, but of FATE itself. I do not think that there is any magazine in the world with a readership as devoted to a magazine as is the readership of FATE.

But there comes a time when you have to make a leap of faith. Such a leap can help you evolve to a new state of consciousness. I am happy to say that it is my time to take that leap.

As much as I enjoy FATE and hearing from you, it is time for me to move on from living FATE. New projects, adventures, challenges and excitement await me.

The direction FATE will be taking in the future will be similar to the way it is going now. Your favorite columns and features—including *True Mystic Experiences* and *My Proof of Survival*—will still be in every issue. The inner nature of what makes FATE special will stay the same: true, documented reports of the strange and unknown.

If you could say that the Fullers gave FATE life I hope that people will remember me as the person who brought a sick FATE back to the health it deserves. If you have appreciated the work I have done in some small way please do not write to thank me. Rather, demon-

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A new Editor-in-Chief has not yet been appointed, but Robert St. John will carry on for the next three months or so while full time applicants are considered. Persons interested in interviewing should send a resume to "FATE Personnel."

Thank you all for your support. May your lives be filled with peace, happiness and love.

*Donald Michael Kraig*

## CENSORSHIP— ARE YOUR BELIEFS NEXT?

According to an article in the Twin Cities (Minnesota) *Star Tribune*, there is a new direction among those who want to censor what you read. No longer do the traditional profanity and mentioning of sex draw the main focus of the censors' ire. The main focus of censorship now, according to Arthur J. Kropp, president of People for the American Way (PAW), is "Satanism, the occult and New Age religion...The 1990–91 school year was the single worst year for school censorship in the history of our research."

*continued on page 12*

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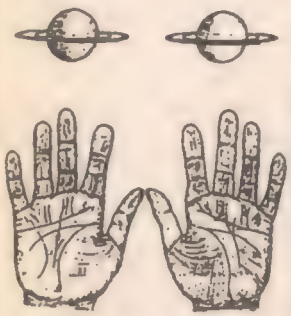

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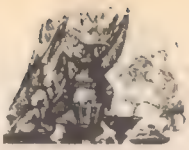

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The secret of this book is not in the way it is presented, but in the materials that are used. ALL ARE SIMPLE AND EASY TO FIND—RIGHT IN YOUR OWN SURROUNDINGS. They all come from nature. Author Ray Malbrough uses the materials that were handed down in his own family. He focuses on the secrets of Hoodoo Magick, a tradition of the Cajun people of southern Louisiana. In using this amazing magick, Malbrough shows how you can bring about the necessary changes to benefit your life and that of your loved ones.

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*continued from page 9*

Although the American Library Association cannot confirm the later assertion, Anne Levinson, assistant director of the association's office for intellectual freedom agrees that when it comes to the topics of those who want to ban books, "if Satanism and the occult isn't No. 1, it's very close."

Twenty-three per cent of the censorship incidents documented by PAW were focused toward a series of 15 grade-school books for reading and language known as *Impressions*. The reasons why some people wanted the books censored included such things as there were pictures of rainbows which are "a symbol of the New Age." Another charge against the books is that "the cats in the books' " stories suggested a preoccupation with the occult.

We find it apalling that some people want to censor cats and rainbows as "representing" the New Age.

We wonder what they are going to want to censor next.

## SOUND AND SHAPE

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He also has performed on piano on three continents. He studied with Pablo Casals and been called "a brilliant musician by Yehudi Menuhin."

Clynes is the author of five books and even Albert Einstein was a fan of his.

Clynes is no crackpot.

And yet, according to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*, he has a new theory that many find hard to believe. Simply put, Clynes says that "when human emotions are expressed...they have shapes—real ones." Clynes has measured the shapes with a machine and claims that they are the same from one person to the next.

When he first proposed this in 1968 at a scientific conference, the audience burst into laughter. However, he is now using a computer program he designed to create music using his methods. The result is that although the music still sounds synthesized, it definitely has emotional content.

This discovery may someday lead to computers that can actually have emotions.

### VEDA LAND

Most of us are familiar with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, founder of the Transcendental Meditation (TM) movement which now claims three million practitioners. They believe that their meditation tech-


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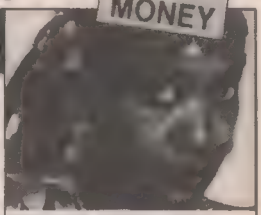

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niques—including "flying" which appears to be merely bouncing around a room—can actually lower crime. Most authorities do not agree that the "Super Radience Effect,"(more commonly known as the Maharishi Effect) does much for lowering crime rates.

Perhaps it does work. We are certainly in favor of trying anything—especially something as positive as a form of meditation—which can lower crime. The good news is that we will all be able to help the Maharishi without learning to meditate or "fly."

The Maharishi and magician Doug Henning, a long-time TMer, will be opening up a theme park in Orlando, Florida, in 1993. For a $23 admission charge you will be able to visit 33 attractions. This mystical Disneyland will feature such things as "a simulated meditation experience" and a building that levitates 15 feet over some water.

This sounds like a fun way to possibly help reduce crime and war. Well...at least it sounds like fun.

### BYE, BYE BIG BANG?

One of the most popular beliefs of science is that the universe began about 20 billion years ago with an immense explosion commonly known as the "Big Bang." Unfortunately, there are a few

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This is all Zorina needs to predict your future. Look at the predictions you'll hear:

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- Complete analysis concerning LOVE, MEETING PEOPLE, JOB, MONEY, BUSINESS
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problems with this theory.

According to the (Minnesota) *Star Tribune*, "astronomers have now confirmed by observation the existence of huge conglomerations of galaxies that are simply too big to have been formed in a mere 20 billion years." Furthermore, ground and satellite surveys seem to indicate that there are clumps of matter in the universe which must have taken at least 100 billion years to collect.

Cosmologists addicted to the Big Bang theory have tried to support it by saying that we don't understand everything about the Big Bang, that there were extra, unknown particles that also exploded or that 99 per cent of the matter in the universe cannot be seen.

On the other hand, Nobel Prize winner (for physics in 1970) Hannes Alfven contends that the unverse has always existed—no beginning, no end—and is continually evolving and changing. His idea is that the universe is not only shaped by gravity, but also by huge currents of electrically conducting gas called *plasma* that is snaking through the universe.

We do not know who will turn out to be correct. Perhaps another theory will supercede both. We do believe, however, in the beauty of free thought and true science.

∞

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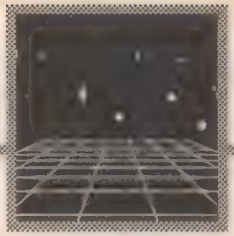
# PSYCHIC FRONTIERS



*By Loyd Auerbach*

## WORKING WITH PSYCHIC DREAMS

It's all well and good to have dreams and to remember them spontaneously. Yet, as I mentioned in my last column, it's another thing altogether to actually work with your dreams: to remember them, to recognize them as psychic when they are and to use any information from them in your life.

Loyd Auerbach

Generally, people sense or *know* that a psychic dream—a dream with that extra information—is somehow different. The content and information is somehow more vivid than other dreams. At the same time they are often as incomplete as any other dream (or any other psychic experience, for that matter). Once you have somehow recorded any content from a psychic dream which you think might relate to the real word you then have two problems. First, you have to discover how to connect that information with events in the physical world, events which can be from the past, present or future. Second, you have to figure out how you can use the information to someone's advantage.

Unfortunately, the information is frequently like a jigsaw puzzle with several pieces. You might have a precognitive dream that an accident is going to happen, yet not the timing of the accident or the exact location. Suppose you dreamt in advance of a plane crash—complete with a description of the airport, the type of plane, how it was going to go down, which engine burst into flames and even just where it was going to crash. You still don't have enough information to be of value to the FAA, without at least the date, time of day, airline, flight number or other such information, there's just not enough to act upon.

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even know where to look for the problem.

I hear about many people's psychic experiences. Often these include the expression of frustration surrounding the incompleteness of the information. There is also guilt expressed due to not being able to use that incomplete vision to prevent a tragedy or to spur on something positive. Unfortunately, this seems to be the nature of psi. The guilt many feel is something the percipient simply needs to learn to get past. Without total control of one's own psi, how can one possibly be held responsible for not doing enough?

With dreams you not only face the incompleteness of information through psi, but also the incompleteness of recollection of the dreams. Trying some of the exercises and experiments that follow, adapted from my book, *Psychic Dreaming: A Parapsychologist's Handbook*, may help to some degree.

## EXERCISES

1) *Keep a Dream Journal or Log.* Get into the habit of recording your dreams on a regular basis. Remember that the *intent* to do this is often necessary to increase dream recall just as such intent or motivation to be psychic is often necessary to have repeated psychic experiences.

Keep a note of anything out of the ordinary. How well or how poorly did you sleep? How tired were you when you went to bed? What did you eat? How were you when you woke up? Are there any issues on your mind? How much (or how little) sleep did you get? If a dream was particularly striking (or seemed *different*, lucid or psychic) make a special note.

2) *Make the intent to dream and to remember your dreams a part of your daily routine.* The more you remember and record the dreams in your journal, the more you will remember your dreams.

3) *Review your Dream Journal on a regular basis.* Look for patterns in the dreams, both in the content and how striking or unusual any of the dreams might have been. Look for connections between dream images (or how they felt to you), physical factors—including how tired you were, what you ate, how much sleep you had, etc—and/or psychological factors—such as mood, intent, issues on your mind, etc. Take special note in your journal of any patterns you begin to see.

4) *Purposefully try to repeat a pattern-related dream when you become aware of a pattern.* For example, if you've noticed the same images in dreams (such as flying or out-of-body experiences) when you are in a particu-

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lar physical or emotional state, try recreating this state to see if the same kind of dream recurs.

Be cautious with this. I don't recommend or condone the use of any drugs—legal, illegal, prescribed or over-the-counter—in this sort of experiment. Further, if the pattern you're investigating includes less than a healthy amount of sleep or not eating properly you need to consider if the end result (the dream) is worth the price (ill health). I don't believe it is.

5) *Examine the kinds of psychic information, general themes and people or events connected to psychic dreams.* When you have dreams you consider to be psychic, don't limit yourself to only examining the patterns of your physical and emotional states when the dreams occur. Look carefully at the kinds of psychic information (telepathic, clairvoyant, precognitive, etc.) and the people, events and general themes of the experiences (disasters, illness, good happenings, friends, relatives, strangers, famous people, etc.).

6) *If you have a dream you believe is psychic, check it out against existing information.* If you have a telepathic dream, check the information with the person whom you believe (consciously or unconsciously) sent the message. If you have a clairvoyant dream of

*continued on page 27*

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*From the Great Lady—a final, generous promise:*

# "BEFORE I RETIRE, I WISH TO REVEAL MY BIG SECRET TO 500 PEOPLE... ABSOLUTELY FREE!"

You probably know about this most extraordinary woman. The Great Lady has dedicated her life to creating happiness around her by bringing good fortune to the most deprived.

However, you have never seen her face. This is quite understandable – because the Great Lady never agreed to appear in public, and nobody can boast of having seen her in any clairvoyance festivals. No, she has never practiced for money. And yet, many owe her their happiness and fortune.

**One can truthfully say that a clairvoyant has never been so revered and yet, at the same time, so discreetly private.**

Today, the person referred to as the Great Lady is no longer young. Therefore, as a final present, she wishes to reveal her sacred secret to 500 persons of her choice. This same secret enabled her to help the most unfortunate and unlucky people throughout her life.

Now, a few heart-felt words from the Great Lady herself:

"I have never cared for publicity nor to boast about my achievements.

## I have sworn to do only good

However, I will tell you that I have inherited my power to predict from my mother. In fact, it's not really a power, it's more of a secret which she revealed to me before her death, and made me swear that I would never use it for anything else than to do good, to help the deprived and to bring happiness to those around me. I was 15, and I swore this promise on the Bible, as my mother was very religious.

You know the rest. The steady stream of appreciative letters is the best evidence—evidence of the fact that I have accomplished my mission on earth, and respected the promise I made to my mother to try and bring happiness to others."

## Here is why I wish to reveal my secret!

"I really believe that this era is too hard on some people, and all too easy for others. I cannot bear to see some people are rich and fulfilled, and others are forever struggling to make ends meet.

During my life I have used the marvelous secret given to me to help the unfortunate and deprived. Now, before retiring,

I want to do even more. So here is the decision I have made.

**During the next three months, I will help 500 people, or more if necessary, to discover their luck and I will reveal my secret to them. This is my solemn promise."**

### In debt yesterday, rich today!

"Please permit me now to share some happy memories with you.

I remember this man who had reached the end of his savings and was jobless. For the first time in his life he played the lottery and won nearly one million dollars. I can assure you that he didn't play strictly by chance. He even knew the exact moment when he should fill in the coupon. At the time, you probably read about it in the papers.

I also recall the young woman with her three little girls, whose husband left her without even enough money to do the shopping for the next day. And for the first time, she played and won a substantial amount of money.

Her predictions were all correct, the numbers were indeed the ones she had to play on that day.

Those who, thanks to their power of prophecy, found their lucky numbers and won fantastic amounts of money, were poor and discouraged and are now happy and fulfilled."

### I will share my secret with you!

"I don't yet know the names of the people I will reveal my power to predict to although I have already visualized them in my mind. But I do know that they will recognize themselves as they read this.

**They will understand that I have chosen them out of many and that I will give them happiness.**

I can assure you that these people are going through hard times at the moment, that they are experiencing both emotional and financial strain. They feel lonely, discouraged and have never had the good fortune to win lots of money at the races, in the lotteries or through inheritance."

### Substantial sums of money

"I speak now to those of you who are going to write to me today because you recognized yourselves as being one of the desperate people I am looking for. I will trust my secret to you, to enable you to solve all your problems and help you find security and happiness at last.

Just like all those who were lucky enough to win large amounts of money, you, too, could find yourselves very rich and fulfilled in a few days!"

### A true revelation

My secret will be a true revelation for you. As soon as you have understood it, you will feel so good and so strong, and this will help you to succeed and find happiness.

Just like all those who have succeeded in life and won large amounts of money, you will instinctively know what you have to do to really succeed.

This power to predict has revealed itself to 98% of the people to whom I have entrusted my secret.

You no longer have to give up on your hopes of achieving wealth, status, success and love."

Maybe you will be the next one saying: *"It is incredible that it should happen to me, who has no particular powers... when I think that all I had to do was write to you, and for you to give me your secret, in order for my life to completely change."*

### This offer is only for people who have never won, and who really need to!

If you have never won at the races, lotteries, bingo, or never inherited any money, or have only ever won small amounts, then you are one of the few people who is truly qualified to receive the Great Lady's secret.

Because you have never been very lucky, you deserve to benefit at long last from happiness, security and a good life.

### Take advantage of this unique offer!

In a few days, you will receive a plain envelope which will contain a letter from the Great Lady. You must not show it to anyone. Secrecy is vital!

From that day on, you will discover how to acquire power to predict, which will help you fulfill some of your most secret dreams.

Answer promptly. Nobody has ever made you an offer like this. In a few days, you could be one of the few privileged people to whom the Great Lady will, at long last, reveal her secret.

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I will also give you... at absolutely no charge a very personal word to remember the day I reveal my secret to you. It will protect you.

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New York, NY 10017

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**New York, NY 10017**

YES, I wish to be one of the privileged 500 people to whom the Great Lady will reveal her secret. I await your discreet answer in the mail.

I honestly certify the following:

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- ☐ I have never won a great amount of money in the lotteries, at the races, at bingo, nor have I received a large inheritance.
- ☐ I am anxious to receive money within the next three months.
- ☐ I have a personal problem I cannot solve alone.
- ☐ I will never reveal the secret I will be told to anyone but my descendants.
- ☐ I enclose 5 stamps (or one dollar) for postage and handling expenses of the Great Lady's letter to me.

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*continued from page 22*

an event or location, try to match the information with the reality. If you have a dream of the future, keep an eye on the news to see if it comes true. If it is a situation you can reasonably interact with, use the information to help or hinder the predicted outcome.

Remember, however, that you may not always be in a position to change the future *regardless* of how much you know. Therefore, there may be nothing you can do to change the outcome of a predicted event. For example, you may learn from a dream that a political figure is to be assassinated. Yet, unless you have very specific information you could relay to that person's security (and this is not common in psychic dreams) there may be nothing you can personally do to change that future. *Do not allow yourself to either take responsibility for the event or feel guilty that you couldn't alter the outcome!*

7) *Tell yourself repeatedly that you will have a psychic dream.* Along with repeating "I will remember my dreams" you should include such affirmations as "I will have a dream dealing with the big meeting I have next week" or "I will connect, telepathically, with my friend Chris" or "I will go out of my body in my dreams and visit Moscow." Incubate an issue for which you

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may have no information stored in your memory and connect it to being psychic to find the answer via a psychic dream.

### PSYCHIC DREAMING EXPERIMENTS AT HOME

Experiments with dreams can only be conducted after you begin the process of remembering and recording your dreams. Otherwise you may have a momentary satisfaction that the process to have a psychic experience while dreaming worked but no real remembrance of what it was about. The following exercises naturally follow after you have begun to recall and record your dreams.

1) *Clairvoyance/Remote Viewing in Your Dreams:* Where the target locations or events are current to the time of the dream.

A) Select a location somewhere in your geographic vicinity where you've never been. Do not go to that location until after the experiment. Incubate/think about visiting this location in your dreams. Record dreams over a period of time (say a week) and pick out any content you think might be related to that location. Copy that down separately and keep it for your records.

Take that copy, as well as the journal entries of the experiment week, to the target location. Compare the information you identi-

*continued on page 32*

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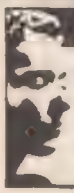
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*continued from page 29*
fied as being related to the actually physical location. Then look through the journal entries for any other description that may be related.

Consider how well you did, including why you thought some content you picked out as related was not related, and why some descriptions you didn't pick out as being related in actuality were so.

Try this with more distant locations (you may have to find photos or descriptions of the locations. This may come from there or from someone who has been there) and see if your dreams were accurate.

B) Select an event that will occur somewhere in the world during the time you'll be asleep. Go to bed with the intent that you will observe the event in your dreams. Record the information/content of the dreams upon awakening, then through the media or witnesses who may have been there compare the content of the dreams to the actual events.

Keep in mind that simply dreaming of the outcome of a sporting event or battle somewhere else that occurs while you are asleep does not necessarily mean you had a psychic experience. It's also possible that your dreaming mind made a good guess. Look more closely at the descriptive content of the dreams—it's not who wins or loses, but descriptions of how the game was played.

Try this on several nights to see what kind of "hit" rate you get.

C) Arrange with a friend who is not at your location, and who will be awake while you are asleep, to make a note of what he or she is doing during the time period that you are asleep. Hopefully this will not be something which could cause embarrassment later!

Record your dream content and compare it with the notes taken by your friend. How well did you pick up on your friend's activities?

2) *Telepathy in Your Dreams:* The "target" is a living person and what he or she dreams or has in his or her mind.

A) Have a friend select a number of pictures or illustrations from books or magazines. They should be as different from each other as possible. Do not have your friend show them to you.

On specific nights while you are asleep, have your friend select one of these pictures and concentrate on it. On the same nights "program" yourself to dream of what your friend is looking at.

Upon awakening write down as much information as possible. Then get together with your friend and see how much of your dream, if any, corresponds with

the actual target picture.

B) As a variation on the above experiment have your friend study the picture before he or she goes to sleep. Both you and your friend should record the dreams experienced during the night. Later you can compare the dreams to the target picture.

You may find a correspondence to either the picture or to a dream your friend had which had nothing to do with the picture.

C) Make a conscious agreement between yourself and a friend/lover/relative who can also recall his or her dreams (to some degree) that you will share a dream. One of you, without telling the other, should then program yourself to dream of a certain topic, event or issue.

On awakening both of you should record your dreams and compare notes. Besides the contents of the dream did you each dream of the other? Did you both show up in the dream?

D) As a variation on C, program yourselves not with an issue to dream of but simply with the idea that whatever the dreams are you will share them. Follow the same comparison techniques described above.

3) *Precognitive Dreams:* Here you'll work with targets selected *after* the dreams are recorded.

A) Program yourself to dream of a friend visiting an unknown location he or she has never been to before (preferably a local one). Spend a week with this program, recording your dreams each day. Select the content or descriptions you think may relate to what your friend will see.

Have your friend make a selection from a map and then go with him or her to the location. Compare your dream notes to the actual location.

B) As a twist on the above experiment, dream of a location you will visit on an upcoming business trip or vacation (a site you had never visited before). Record your dreams up until the time of the visit and compare with the actual location.

C) Have a friend select a fairly large (25 or so) number of pictures or illustrations from books of magazines, trying to make them as different from each other as possible. Do not have your friend show them to you.

On specific nights program yourself to dream of the next day's target. Record the dreams you have that night. Have your friend select a target picture from the group. Later get together with your friend and see how much of your dream, if anything, corresponds with the actual target picture.

D) As a variation your friend could select the pictures and seal them in opaque (preferably very thick) envelopes. After waking

up and recording your dreams select a target from among the envelopes. Open it and compare to your Dream Journal.

E) Select a topic or issue that will have some activity in the immediate future or a particular personality to focus on who will be doing some act in the immediate future. This should be something you can either check out in person or through the news media, such as the activity of a celebrity (which was not announced prior to his or her activity and before you went to sleep) or where the next earthquake or tornado will occur or what the next important event is that will occur in the Middle East. You could even work with what will happen in the life of a friend over the next few days.

Focus on the selection and program yourself to dream about the subject at hand. Record your dreams when you awake. Continue the process over a few days. Each day you should compare what you've recorded with whatever you can find out about the selected target.

F) As a variation, select yourself and your own life as the target. Keep track of how your dreams correspond to actual events in your life. This will probably work best if you designate specific time periods (like "next Thursday") as the target.

## FINAL COMMENTS

If you begin to find connections between your dreams and outside experience and events, you may actually begin having more vivid psychic experiences in your dreams and waking life without having to program yourself for them.

It seems that for people who accept psychic experience into their lives—who welcome it and are not afraid of it—the more experiences you notice the more experiences you'll have, and the more you recall your dreams the more dreams you'll be able to recall.

Don't be discouraged if the above exercises don't work right away. Many of us—no matter how much we want to have a psychic experience—still have deep-seated blocks and fears of them. Eventually it will work.

Keep on dreaming! Psychic or not, the lessons we can learn by way of our dreams can help us through our own lives and in connecting with the lives of others and the world around us.

Dreams can pick up on two realities: the reality of personal experience and the reality of how we connect on another level to other people and to the world around us—the psychic connection of the reality of the world.

Try these exercises for a while and let me know how you did.

∞

# OUR STRANGE WORLD

*By Mark Chorvinsky*

## THE ALIEN ANIMALS OF CHESAPEAKE BAY

One of my ongoing projects is a booklet entitled *"Chessie" and Other Unusual Creatures in the Chesapeake Bay: A Reference Guide and Bibliography.* This work is a chronological listing of all known "Chessie" and sea-serpent sightings as well as reports of unusual, folkloric, and/or anomalous fish, reptiles and aquatic mammals reported in the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River and off the coast of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Mark Chorvinsky

There are numerous creatures that live in or make their way into the Chesapeake Bay, and may be responsible for some Chessie sightings. Termed *Alien Animals*, such creatures as sharks, whales, dolphins, eels, giant turtles, skates, rays, and sturgeon are all permanent or temporary denizens of the Chesapeake Bay. The fact that the bay is a mixture of fresh and salt water complicates matters zoologically speaking because both fresh and saltwater fish can exist in different parts of the waterway.

In my research I went back to the earliest Maryland historical records, and in them I found references to some cases of encounters with alien animals and possibly folkloric mentions of strange fish. The story of alien animals in the Chesapeake go back to the turn of the 16th century. Before colonization, the Chesapeake Bay was filled with creatures which are now less common. In a 1585 engraving from a drawing by John White, Indians are depicted fishing and crabbing, and the Bay is teeming with numerous interesting fish and reptiles, many of which are no longer found in the Bay.

## AMERICA'S FIRST FISH STORY?

After the Depression, the Works

Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored a number of folklore projects, including some concerning the lore of Maryland, my home state. In the March 1937 issue of *The Guidepost* (an historical/folkloric publication of the Federal Writer's Project of the Maryland WPA), I was interested to read—in a list of "Maryland Firsts"—that the state was credited with having "the 1st fish story—Capt. John Smith."

This is a very ethnocentric view, as Indians in Maryland must certainly have had some fish stories; certainly the Lenapé Indians in Pennsylvania just to the north had monstrous fish and serpent tales, and such monsters were an integral part of their creation beliefs. We know what the WPAers were getting at, though—the first fish tale told "in the colonies" by a Western European colonist.

I found this brief statement rather tantalizing—forteans have always been into fish stories—and decided to find the original source of the tale. It didn't take long.

The answer to the question of just what was this supposed "first fish story" led to some research into Capt. John Smith, one of Maryland's early European explorers. In *Travels and Works of Captain John Smith, Vol. 1, 1580-1631*, edited by Edward Arber, (F.S.A., Edinburgh: John Grant, 1910), there is a description of Captain Smith being stung by a huge fish, probably a stingray that lived in the Chesapeake. According to Smith, this fish had a long tail with a 'a poysoned sting, of two or three inches long, bearded like a saw on each side.' When the stingray whipped Smith with its tail, there was no visible wound or blood, just a little blue spot. Instantly, however, Smith was wracked with pain. In four hours, the Captain's hand, arm and shoulder had swollen to such an extent that Smith's men thought that he did not have long to live. They found that, "By probing the spot on his arm where the fish had struck him, the pain was greatly relieved and Captain Smith finally recovered."

There is a local tale that Stingray Point on the Chesapeake was so named by Smiths' men after this incident.

Corroboration that stingrays were found in the Chesapeake Bay of the early 1600s is found in *Narratives of Early Virginia, 1606-1625* edited by Lyon Gardiner Tyler (NY: Charles Scribner and Sons, 1907, p. 95): "Of fish we were best acquainted with Sturgeon, Grampus, Porpus, Seales, Stingraies, whose tailes are very dangerous..."

Captain John Smith may have

also been responsible for creating the first visual image of Chessie. In *Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History*, M.V. Brewington includes a 1612 map by Smith entitled "Virginia." This map is said to be the earliest map of any accuracy covering the entire Chesapeake Bay and its environs, and sticking out of the water at the mouth of the Bay is what appears to be the head and neck of a sea serpent!

## THE DREADED REMORA

One of supposed inhabitants of the Chesapeake Bay in the 1600s was the dreaded *Remora*. In Raphael Semmes *Captains and Mariners of Early Maryland*, we read that, "An early visitor to the Eastern Shore thought the Remora, which was so much dreaded by the ancients, abounded in the waters of the Chesapeake."

For centuries, this fish, also known as the sucking fish, was believed to have had the ability to attach its tail to a rock and grip a passing ship with its mouth. Pliny, in *The Historie of the World*, reported that the ship of the Roman emperor Caligula was seized by a Remora, and Marc Antony's ship was said to have been held back by one off Actium during a battle at sea.

In the case of Caligula it was claimed that not even the strength of 400 men rowing in the galley could break the force exerted by the Remora. One might imagine that the Remora was a giant fish, but actually it was thought to be no more than a foot long. The Greeks called the fish *echeneis*, meaning "stay ship."

Spencer wrote of the Remora in *Visions of the World's Vanity* [cited in Colin Clair, *Unnatural History*]:

*All suddenly there clove unto her keel*
*A little fish that we call remora,*
*Which stopt her course, and held her by the heel,*
*That wind nor tide could move her thence away.*
*Strange thing meseemeth that so small a thing*
*Should able be so great an one to wring.*

## GIANT TURTLES

A short article concerning an early Maryland "sea monster" ran in the Burlington, Vermont, *Free Press* on August 7, 1840. The clip was found by veteran cryptozoologist Joseph W. Zarzynski who discovered it during his newspaper searches for historical aquatic monsters. Entitled "The Sea Serpent Caught," it began: "On Sunday evening about 6 o'clock as the schooner *Wasp*, Captain Williams, and the schooner *Independent Eagle*, Captain Owens, were coming up the bay, they described, about three miles

below North Point, a strange-looking fish or serpent to leeward. A boat from each schooner was manned, and a chase for the prize took place. A harpoon was driven into the creature and away it flew, dragging the boat for nearly eight miles like a chip down a cataract. It was found necessary at length to stop the speed of this marine locomotive, and a couple of balls being shot into it, the death flurry came on and it soon floated a lifeless carcass. It was borne in triumph to the foot of South Street wharf where it was visited by most of the old cruisers about town, who, had been to every part of the globe, and knew everything that partook of the nature of fish, flesh or fowl, like a book. They all declared they had not seen such a nondescript. It measures twelve feet in length, and nine feet from fin to fin; it has a head like a seal, with teeth, and its back is covered with a large shell. —It has fur [fore] fins or flippers, and in its general appearance bears some resemblance of a turtle or rather a monstrosity of that species of fish, which nature in one of her freaks had created."

The monster turned out to be a large, leatherback turtle. This case, described in full in Michael T. Shoemaker's article "The Day They Caught Chessie," (*Strange Magazine* #3, p. 30) was in fact the first recorded instance of these strange creatures being captured at this latitude. (John Ford, "The Leatherback Turtle," *American Naturalist*, #13, 1879, pp. 633-637.) The odd looking leatherback turtle grows to 8 feet and has weighed in at 1,902 lbs.

On at least one occasion, a giant green turtle in Maryland was initially mistaken for a sea monster. In a first-person article entitled "Chesapeake Odyssey" published in the September 1939 issue of *The National Geographic Magazine*, the skipper of the Chesapeake-touring *Tralee* calls out: "There's some big monster swimming towards us!" When the "monster" swims closer to the boat it is seen to be a giant sea turtle. (*National Geographic Magazine*, September 1939, John Maloney. "Chesapeake Odyssey." p. 357.)

Whether real monsters of the sea—like the giant turtle and the poisonous stingray—or chimerical creatures such as the remora, the Chesapeake Bay has always had its share of unusual aquatic denizens.

*Consulting editor and columnist Mark Chorvinsky researches and investigates a wide variety of strange phenomena and is the editor of* Strange Magazine *($1.95 for a 4 issue subscription; published twice a year; sample $5.95; P.O. Box 2246, Rockville MD 20847).*

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# UFO Reporter

*By Jerome Clark*

## CONTACTEE ODYSSEY

Last month we recounted the early career of Michel d'Obrenovic, better known as George Hunt Williamson. Williamson, an anthropologist of sorts, lived among the Chippewa, Sioux and Hopi, whose legends he suspected were records of contacts with extraterrestrials. When he moved to Arizona in 1952, he, his wife Betty, and others reported they had established radio and telepathic communication with representatives of Mars, Neptune and the "Solar X Group."

Jerome Clark

Williamson soon was making regular pilgrimages to Southern California to meet with "Professor" George Adamski, who was channeling messages from space people. On November 20, 1952, Williamson was among six "witnesses" to a meeting between Adamski and Orthon, a Venusian, in the California desert. Soon afterwards, however, Williamson and Adamski parted company, Williamson charging Adamski with becoming secretive and untrustworthy, Adamski criticizing Williamson's psychic space contacts. Williamson went off on his own. His 1954 book *The Saucers Speak!*, which he wrote with Alfred C. Bailey, made him a celebrity in the newly emerging contactee subculture.

## LIGHT BEAM CONTACTS

In 1954 Williamson met a Detroit man named Dick Miller. Miller would go on to achieve notoriety two years later when he would produce a tape recording of Mon-Ka, a Martian, and garner enormous publicity in the United States and Great Britain. Mon-Ka promised, "On the evening of November 7 [1956]...at 10:30 P.M. your local time...we will speak from our craft, which will be stationed at an altitude of 10,000 feet over your great city of Los Angeles." That evening two Southern California radio stations

briefly went off the air to allow Mon-Ka's message to come through, and hundreds of contactee disciples climbed on rooftops and scanned the skies for a glimpse of his spaceship. Unsurprisingly to unbelievers, nothing happened. A Los Angeles *Mirror-News* story told of a saucer-contact hoax Miller had perpetrated earlier in Detroit.

But it was Williamson who first introduced Miller to the faithful, at the 1954 Giant Rock Spacecraft Convention, a contactee conclave organized by another space communicator, George W. Van Tassel. On November 20 of that year Williamson, Miller, and radio engineer A. David Middelton formed the Telonic Research Center in Prescott, Arizona. The purpose was to effect "radio and light beam contact with extra-terrestrial intelligences...according to strict scientific procedures," Williamson wrote in *Saucers* (September 1955). The particular targets were Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, the lunar craters Plato and Tycho, and UFOs in the earth's atmosphere.

Financed by a wealthy couple, the trio were able to purchase expensive electronic equipment with which to attract any space people who might be listening in and feel like chatting, but back on earth Williamson and Miller soon found they couldn't stand each other. The backers, who took Williamson's side (he was calling Miller a hoaxer), confiscated the equipment.

## FAILED PROPHECIES

By now, however, Williamson's eyes were looking southward, to the shores of Lake Titicaca in Peru, where advanced space and spirit beings, he believed, lived in vast underground caverns. In October 1956, he placed an ad in the Los Angeles *Times* asking for funding for an expedition to "locate lost worlds in South America, specific locations known." He also hooked up with Dorothy Martin and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Laughead.

Two years earlier Martin and the Laugheads had been involved in a spectacular embarrassing episode which grew out of Martin's communications, via automatic writing, with an ET named Sananda. Sananda directed Martin and the Laugheads, her most devoted followers, to tell the press that apocalyptic events would occur on December 20, 1954, and forever change the world. After the day passed uneventfully, the resulting laughter could be heard from coast to coast. (The episode is the subject of a classic book in the sociology of religion, *When Prophecy Fails* [1956], by Leon Festinger, Henry W. Riecken, and

Stanley Schachter. In it Martin is given the pseudonym "Marian Keach," and the Laugheads are the "Armstrongs.") Undaunted, the three picked up on their continuing interplanetary conversations.

They and Williamson remained convinced that cataclysmic earth changes were imminent, and besides the proximity to advanced spirit and space entities, the Peru location would assure them physical safety. They moved in December 1956 and established the Brotherhood of the Seven Rays, from which tracts were issued, warning of disasters, pleading for donations, and imploring spiritual seekers to join them. In late 1957 Williamson and his companions returned to the United States.

## ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, MODERN CONSPIRACIES

By this time Williamson was something of a saucer superstar. That year his *Other Tongues—Other Flesh*, actually written four years earlier but only now being published, was released under Ray Palmer's Amherst Press imprint. Had it been published when Williamson wrote it, *Tongues* could have been the first "ancient astronaut" book—which honor, if honor it is, would be Desmond Leslie's, whose section of *Flying Saucers Have Landed* (1953), coauthored with George Adamski, traced space visitations back to Atlantis and Lemuria.

Two sequels followed, *Secret Places of the Lion* (1958) and *Road in the Sky* (1959). Combining occult lore, contactee metaphysics, pop anthropology, and Immanuel Velikovsky's controversial astrophysical ideas, these books contend that humanity has always interacted with extraterrestrials. Some Earth people, such as the Hopi, actually originated on other planets, in Williamson's view.

These sorts of speculations, if unconvincing to intellectual sophisticates, are at least harmless. Unfortunately the three books, along with *UFOs Confidential!* (1958, written with John McCoy), also give evidence of the author's barely concealed anti-Semitism. According to Williamson, "negative space intelligences from Orion" desired the "Earth planet, rich in mineral wealth," and controlled the minds of certain individuals, who "prey on the unsuspecting[;] they astound intellects with their words of magnificence." These "Intruders" include the "International Bankers," a code name in anti-Semitic literature for Jews. If there were any doubts on that score, Williamson resolved them by naming, as "top figures in the Great Conspiracy," Bernard Baruch,

Felix Frankfurter, Herbert Lehman, and the Warburgs.

Citing as their authority an extreme right-wing monograph titled *Our Secret Government*, Williamson and McCoy raved as follows:

"Every king, president or dictator on Earth is only a figurehead...a tool of the 'Hidden Empire.' For millennia this group has been determined to keep truth from mankind for selfish purposes! They have removed vital books and sections of the Holy Bible until it is unrecognizable...they have written history as they wished to, not as it really happened...they wave flags and scream 'Patriotism!' and thousands of young men, women and children die so that vast war machines may be fed...These secret world rulers will never allow official UFO announcements to be made to the public...If the technology of the space visitors is revealed it will immediately eliminate the need for oil, gas, automobiles, and practically everything else that drains the public and keeps every family in America on a credit-buying spree until they are deposited six feet under." This "Silence Group," they wrote, was the product of an "ancient, hideous conspiracy that is nothing but the spirit of the anti-Christ!"

**About all that can be said with certainty about him was that he was some strange combination of bald-faced liar and true believer.**

Excesses of this sort won Williamson no admirers among non-contactee ufologists. *Saucer News* editor James W. Moseley harbored a particular loathing for Williamson. His own father, Gen. George Van Horn Moseley, had been a figure on the far-right-wing of the political spectrum, so he recognized the type.

Moseley blasted Williamson for his "Fascist and anti-Semitic views" and exposed his phony credentials. In *Who's Who in America and American Men of Science* Williamson, who in fact was a college dropout, claimed a "Sc.D., No. U., 1952," and was always referred to in contactee literature as "Dr." Wil-liamson. Moseley and associates Michael G. Mann and John J. Robinson found no "Northern University" in America, and North-western University had never heard of him. But then, maybe Williamson was telling the literal truth: that he possessed a doctorate of science from "No university." Another Moseley associate, Y. N. Ibn Aharon

(the pseudonym of Yonah Fortner), demolished Williamson's pretense to expertise in ancient history and languages, and Lonzo Dove, an amateur astronomer, ridiculed his cosmological theories.

None of this had much of an impact on Williamson's international legion of admirers, who saw him as a courageous scientist and fearless advocate of the space people's benign mission. In 1958 he toured the world and preached the interplanetary gospel to adoring audiences.

But now, he reasoned, it was time to move on. In 1959 he changed his name to Michel d'Obrenovic —d'Obrenovic was the family's original, Yugoslavian name— because, John Griffin writes in an unpublished biography, his "sensational UFO and psychic claims ...had rendered his professional work completely unacceptable in scientific and academic circles." Under his new name he published a number of papers in reputable anthropological journals.

In 1961 he traveled to Japan for what amounted to a farewell tour, and after that he dropped off the flying-saucer map. It was, no doubt, a wise career move. The flamboyant 1950s California contactee subculture was in decline, and attendance at gatherings such as the pivotal Giant Rock convention was falling off sharply.

News of his death in January 1986 surprised those ufologists who remembered him and who had assumed he must have died years earlier. He gave occasional lectures, relatively restrained ones, on ancient-astronaut themes, never mentioning his colorful past or even his original name, George Hunt Williamson. Aside from that, he pursued his interests in Southwestern and South American anthropology and archaeology.

## THE LEGACY

To my knowledge only one of Williamson's books (*Secret Places of the Lion*) is currently in print, but a reading of this and other of his works shows his anticipation of some of the enduring themes of fringe ufology: space people good and bad, ancient astronauts, tales of U.S. government contacts with ETs, even the anti-Semitism which has emerged as a latent theme in recent UFO-conspiracy yarns of the sort spun by Milton William Cooper and others. Like Williamson, the Cooperists contend that the secret government that controls the world has formed an alliance with evil aliens.

Williamson remains an enigmatic figure. About all that can be said with certainty about him was that he was some strange combination of bald-faced liar and true believer.

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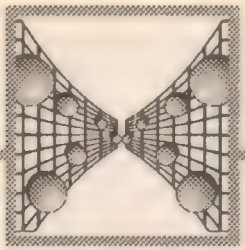

# BEYOND THE KNOWN

*By John Keel*

## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

If you own a really good dictionary (not an el-cheapo drugstore paperback), look in the front pages and you will find a fascinating surprise. There should be several pages of alphabets and samples of writing from many different foreign languages. Back in the days when I was chasing around the country interviewing witnesses to fortean events I carried such a dictionary and used it frequently, asking people to pick out the symbols closest to what they had reportedly observed on strange objects, etc. Since few percipients are acquainted with foreign languages, they often enthusiastically described what they thought were "hieroglyphics" or "Oriental writing," then, invariably, after studying the dictionary alphabets, they would settle upon Greek letters as what they actually saw.

John Keel

Almost no one, aside from accomplished linguists, is able to correctly tell the difference between Chinese, Japanese, Korean and other Oriental languages. There are, of course many dif-ferences, just as true Egyptian hieroglyphics (which are largely pictographs of animals, people and easily identified objects ) are very different from Arabic.

For some odd reason, Greek symbols have always played an important role in occult apparitions. Religious tradition tells us that Christianity really began in 312 A.D. when the Emperor Constantine saw a vision of the Greek letters CHI and RO in the sky, then later had a dream in which Christ appeared with those same symbols. Greek letters and words such as "Xeno" (stranger) have had an enigmatic purpose in modern UFO reports. In some of the cases I investigated, the Greek symbols seemed to serve as "triggers" causing the percipients to lapse

into a hypnotic trance.

While thus entranced, they experienced hallucinatory episodes which seemed as convincing as reality itself and became the basis for much of the UFO lore.

## PHANTOM ALPHABETS

A man named Alfred Vail created a new alphabet in the 1840s which quite literally changed the world. (Can you guess what it was? The answer appears later in this column.)

Around the same time, Edgar Allen Poe published his short story, "The Gold Bug," which contained the English alphabet arranged in order of usage. This was extremely valuable in breaking codes. You just have to count the most frequently used symbols or letters in a coded message and it is probably "e," the most used letter in the English alphabet, etc.

Making up codes and alphabets is an ancient pursuit. In religion and occultism, whole new languages are frequently introduced. Alchemists, Witches and practitioners of magick have invented thousands of codes to hide their secrets. Even Thomas Jefferson once invented a code machine.

In 1827, a young farm boy named Joseph Smith discovered a set of metal plates buried in New York State. They contained strange carvings which he purportedly translated into *The Book of Mormon*. It serves as the bible for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The plates were eventually lost but people who claimed to have seen them tried to duplicate some of the symbols and they resembled a number of other occult alphabets, including the "Martian alphabet" later produced by a channeler named "Helene" in the 1890s.

She would go into trances and speak in voices of other entities. She also visited Mars, presumably with some form of astral projection, describing the buildings there and the small gray beings who inhabited them. A psychologist named Theodore Flournoy wrote a book about "Helene" and her experiences titled *From India to the Planet Mars* (1898).

A decade before "Helene" began her space travels, a New York dentist, John Ballou Newbrough, underwent a series of mystical experiences which led to the creation of *Oahspe*, a 900-paged book that appeared to be another new bible. Newbrough wrote it on the brand-new invention called the typewriter. He didn't know how to type, but he got up very early every morning and hammered away at it for an

hour or two. He also produced numerous drawings and designs through automatic writing. Naturally, this included a detailed alphabet for a language called *Panic*. ( Pan was *Oahspe*'s name for the very first inhabited land on earth.) Many of the symbols in Panic bear an interesting resemblance to those of the Mormon plates and the 1898 Martian alphabet.

**Making up codes and alphabets is an ancient pursuit. In religion and occultism, whole new languages are frequently introduced. Alchemists, Witches and practitioners of magick have invented thousands of codes to hide their secrets. Even Thomas Jefferson once invented a code machine.**

Panic was more complicated than most occult languages because it dealt with sounds. That is, every true written language must be based on sounds, while codes are based on existing alphabets. To oversimplify this as an example, early Oriental languages described things by the sound they made. The spoken word for "dog" would thus be a barking sound and the written word would have to somehow suggest that sound. To carry this a step further, the spoken word would be dependent on the actual physical structure of the mouth and larynx of the speaker. This is slightly different in different races, so their spoken and written languages are different.

Helene's delusionary Martians might have been lipless and/or tongueless, so their language would be radically different from ours and the symbols of their alphabet would reflect this. In fact, they might not resemble anything we could recognize as a language. Unfortunately, it was clear that Helene's Martian alphabet was primarily a code of symbols substituted for our alphabet. Therefore, it was very likely a product of her unconscious mind. On the other hand, Panic could have been a real language in itself.

Now that you are thoroughly bewildered, let's return to Alfred Vail. In the 1840s, Mr. Vail was employed as the assistant to a famous painter named Samuel F. B. Morse. While Morse tinkered with batteries and switches, perfecting his telegraph, Vail figured out an alphabet that could be

reduced to electrical signals—dots and dashes. For example, the much-used letter "e" became a single dot and "t," another much-used letter, became a dash. Seldom-used letters were composed of more involved dots and dashes. In a very real sense, Vail invented a whole new language. As often happens in business, his boss took the credit and it became the "Morse Code." Al-fred Vail became lost in the shuffle of history. But everyone who has ever learned it and used it realizes that it is a language of sounds, just as the jungle drums of Africa are—or were—a language instead of a simple code.

For a century, the Morse Code was a major tool in communication, used by railroads, ships, aircraft, newspapers and industry generally. Millions of people earned their living as telegraphers, and everyone who punched a telegraph key had his or her own distinctive, easily recognized style.

Gradually, however, the use of teletypes and other devices have superceded the telegraph but ham radio operators still have to learn and use the Morse Code.

## LANGUAGES OF THE GODS

Richard Shaver, the founder of modern ufology, heard voices in his head in the 1940s. They taught him a new language which he called "Mantong," yet another variation on Panic. Soon all kinds of alien languages were being introduced into the UFO field, and there were Martian and Venusian alphabets galore. The books and contactee pamphlets of the 1950s are filled with many examples, all of them crudely based on our alphabet rather than upon sounds. Some were received over radios and television sets but most appeared via automatic writing or through channeling.

In recent years, NASA scientists have gotten into the act by devising mathematical forms of communication for SETI, broadcasting dots and dashes into outer space in the hopes that somebody out there might pick them up and figure out how to assemble them into symbols and pictographs.

With the advent of computers, other new languages such as ASCII have been developed so we can talk to our machines and they can communicate with us. (This article is being written in ASCII.) We have even learned the basics of the sounds used by whales, dolphins and elephants to communicate with each other.

But we still have trouble talking to UFOs because too few ufophiles speak ancient Greek.

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# HYPNOTISM AND MIND CONTROL

By Anita Evangelista

**A dark, brooding man stands before you. Tall, refined, yet somehow threatening, his eyes are his most outstanding feature. They seem to glow, to lure you into their murky depths. You are both frightened and fascinated.**

**His voice is a lulling whisper. He tells you about sleep, about dreamless, endless rest. Before you realize what has happened you are subject to his will. He tells you to stand up, and you do. He says your arms are floating upward and despite your best efforts they do. A tiny, inner voice cries out that he can now make you do anything. You would steal for this man. You would kill for him if he told you to do so.**

Sound familiar? If you are like a number of adults in the Western world you'd identify this man as a "hypnotist."

Actually—as you know if you've already met a real hypnotist—those who actually hypnotize others professionally are nothing like this character. Most people who use hypnotism in clinical, therapeutic, research, entertainment or self-improvement settings are about as ordinary as anyone else. The dark, brooding image of the hypnotist has its origin in some of the famous literature of the past (such as Du Maurier's 1894 novel *Trilby*, which introduced the character Svengali) or in movies of more recent times

"And now, you shine, my pretty!" says the evil hypnotist Svengali. This stereotype has dogged the study of hypnotism for nearly a century. (Drawing from an 1894 edition of *Trilby* by George Du Maurier.)

(like Orson Welles' frightening *Black Magic* [1949]).

One of the favorite dogmas of modern hypnotists is the adage that "hypnotism can't make a subject do anything against his or her moral code." This idea has become something of a routine statement in most hypnosis courses and shows. Yet, there is a large body of complicated and confusing evidence which appears to contradict that idea. The history of hypnotism is replete with tales of good people gone awry under the spell of an "evil hypnotist." It would appear that *some* hypnotists apparently can make some people do whatever they want—from theft to spying or even murder—but only under rather unique circumstances.

## EARLY HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Even before the publication of *Trilby*, with its lurid accounts of the wicked Svengali's domination of a beautiful, young singer, precedent-setting legal cases and medical research had already taken place in several places in Europe, Scandinavia and England. In France, for example, Emile Mesnet, a physician working under the auspices of the Paris Academy of Medicine, performed numerous experiments with young

women. He was trying to determine if a shy girl could be subjected to "violation"—that is, rape—while deeply hypnotized. His landmark study, published in 1894 as *Acts of Indecency*, concluded that nearly all women, while in the most profound state of hypnosis, could be violated. Meanwhile, studies at the Nancy School in Paris also confirmed that the women would not remember the event if the hypnotist told them to forget it. Gilles de la Tourette (after whom Tourette's Syndrome is named) confirmed these results through his own experiments.

Today, of course, such elaborate studies could not be undertaken because of the ethical considerations involved. Modern researchers can only wonder at their predecessors' professional behavior in such experiments. But there may be more to this study than is apparent, as we'll discover shortly.

In 1865, almost 30 years before Mesnet's study was published, a curious event took place in the village of Sollies-Farliede (Bar). A beggar named Thimotheus Castelan was invited to stay for one night with a working man and his adult daughter, Josephine. During the course of the night Thimotheus hypnotized the woman, raped and abducted her.

For nearly two weeks the pair traveled the back roads, appearing only for single evenings spent in the homes of other villagers. Thimotheus was seen to make strange signs over Josephine and to mumble instructions. Josephine carried out his every perverse wish.

Thimotheus went too far, however, when he laughingly made her crawl on the floor of a villager's home. They were apprehended and Thimotheus earned 12 years of hard labor. Josephine suffered through various nervous afflictions for several months but appeared to return to normal. The two physicians testified in the case were unanimous in their opinion that the "magnetic effect" destroyed Josephine's moral freedom and that her ordinary restraint was thus lost.

Hypnotism was not understood a century ago as well as it is today. There were overtones of magic, mysticism and superstition involved in even the world of the finest researchers and practitioners of that time. Strangely enough, modern studies can obtain similar control over people, but the reasons for such spellbinding power by the hypnotist are interpreted differently.

## MODERN INSTANCES OF HYPNOTIC MIND CONTROL

In this century, numerous cases have been before the courts in which hypnotism was a decid-

ing factor. In Sweden in 1936 a young man became ringleader for a ruthless gang by using "hypnotism, suggestion and yogism." He convinced one accomplice to commit suicide by "a slow process of suggestion." He subjugated several women using hypnotic techniques and forced one hypnotized gang member to drink poison.

In a 1937 case in Germany, a young married woman was hypnotized by a man impersonating a doctor. For seven years she was under his control. She believed that she suffered from strange ailments which only he could cure and became his unsuspecting plaything. Upon his suggestion she even murdered her husband. When the case came to trial the hypnotically induced suggestions were found to be so complex and bizarre that it took a court psychiatric consultant nine months to make sense of the situation.

During 1954 in Denmark, a man walked into a bank and murdered a teller and the manager. Then he dazedly tried to bicycle away while the police arrived to arrest him. The lengthy trial and court battle were complicated by a series of posthypnotic suggestions. However, the man declared that he had never been hypnotized and had no accomplice.

It was later determined through over 20 hearings that the man had been hypnotized while in prison for another crime. His hypnotist was a cell mate who convinced the man that a "spirit" was guiding them both. The hypnotist not only demanded all of the man's financial earnings under the spirit's instructions, he also found a woman for his victim to marry. Under an earlier hypnotic suggestion the man had robbed a Copenhagen bank of about $3,000 and had no memory of the event.

The hypnotist in this case was sentenced to life at forced labor. The man was committed to a mental institution—it was said that the hypnotist had "murdered" the man's personality and destroyed his mind!

## MANSON AND MIND CONTROL

One of the most significant instances of the use of hypnotism in mind control is from the latter 20th century. It involved Charles Manson's "family" of hippies and drug users who systematically killed a number of people in California in 1969, including an heiress to the Folger's estate and pregnant actress Sharon Tate. Manson's Svengali-like appearance—piercing eyes and intense energy—led many journalists to speculate about his possible hyp-

notic accomplishments. He was known to have spent time with at least one Hollywood hypnotist and, allegedly, to have studied the persuasive approaches of Scientology. He announced to his followers that he was the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

During an earlier stint in prison Manson worked as a disk jockey on the jail radio station. He supposedly beamed hypnotic messages to inmates while they slept. In one instance he used the radio to plant a suggestion that everyone should keep applauding him when he sang at a prison talent contest. He won the contest and received a standing ovation.

The system Manson used on his followers included hypnotism, heavy drug use, "spiritual" messages, psychological intimidation and participation in group sex orgies. He is still serving a life sentence for organizing the crimes along with several of his followers.

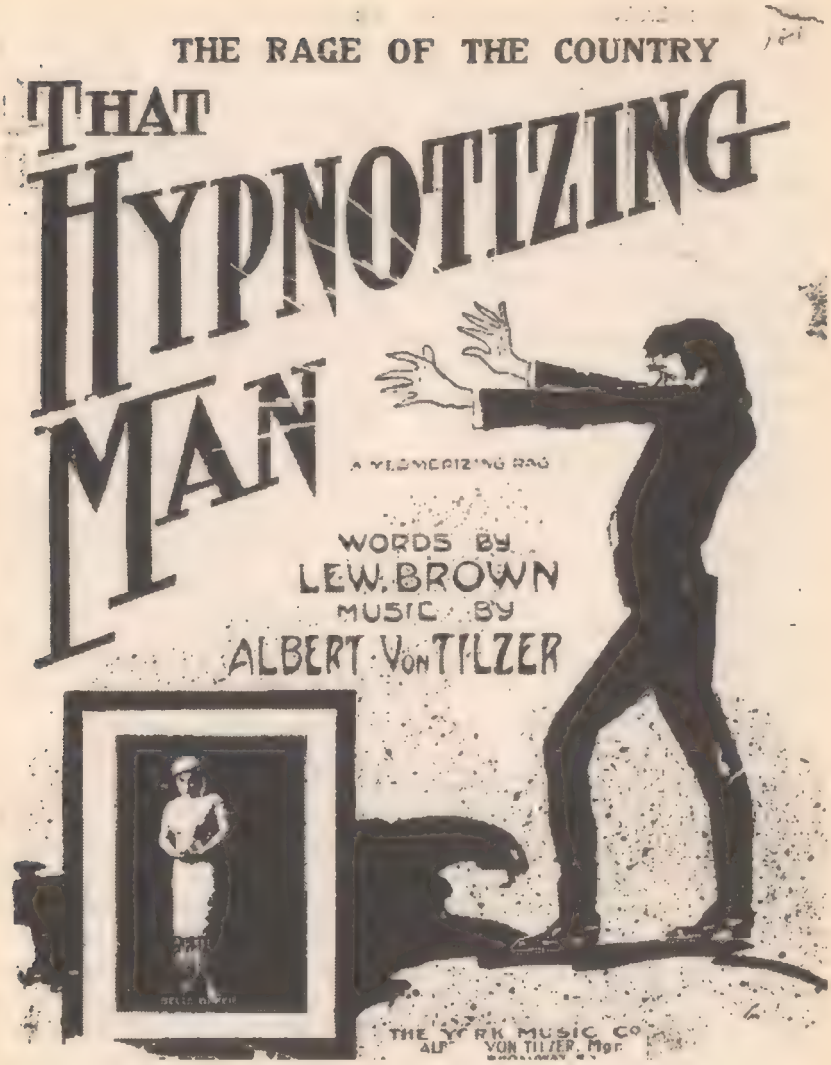
## PERSONALITY DESTRUCTION

One of the best-documented and strangest cases of hypnotic mind control involved a famous model, her radio talk-show-personality husband, and a pair of prominent hypnotists. Candy Jones had a successful career as a model. In about 1960 she was hypnotized for the first time by a physician with the pseudonym Gilbert Jensen. Jensen followed a program originally outlined in 1957 by noted hypnotist G. H. Estabrooks. The purpose of the program was to develop a "superspy," a secondary personality within an otherwise normal person. This alter ego might then be trained to undergo any test—from torture to faking hypnosis—and could still act as an unknowing saboteur or assassin. The subject's original personality would have no conscious knowledge of what took place.

Candy Jones was under Jensen's control until 1972 when she married radio host Long John Nebel. Nebel had a little experience with hypnotism, and when his wife couldn't sleep he tried his skill to overcome her insomnia. What he found was a distinct, angry personality that called herself "Arlene."

Arlene claimed to have had all sorts of strange, foreign contacts and encounters. She said she had acted as a courier, had been tortured using electric shock and had even been subjected to a demeaning demonstration of Jensen's hypnotic control when the doctor had inserted a lighted candle into her in front of a group of spectators. In waking life Candy had no recollection of these events.

The Jones case appeared to be only a small piece in a mind-control puzzle that involved the




This is the cover of a piece of sheet music from 1911
Like Trilby, singer Belle Baker cowers in the lower, left-hand corner,
trying to escape the hypnotic control of her dark nemesis.

CIA's notorious "Operation Artichoke." Under this operation thousands of unwitting subjects "from every level of society," including members of the military, were given LSD, sodium pentothal, electric shock, hypnosis, narcotics and so on to try to induce and control behavior.

Candy Jones feared that Jensen would use his control of "Arlene" to make her commit suicide. With her husband's help she was able to pull herself free of Jensen's control, but the Arlene personality remained with her, ready to take over at a moment's notice.

Jensen was never arrested nor convicted of any crime.

## SUBJECTS AND SIMULATORS

Light was finally thrown on the subject of hypnotism and mind control by a piece of research performed in 1965 which repeated work conducted in the 1930s. Seeking to understand how some people became subject to the orders of a destructive hypnotist, experimenter L.W. Rowland set up a test in 1939. He reported that he devised a special piece of non-reflecting glass which was set up between the hypnotic subject and a research assistant. Subjects, who were deeply hypnotized, could see the assistant but not the glass which separated them. After being shown that a beaker contained corrosive acid, the subjects were ordered to throw the acid in the assistant's face. The subjects did just that.

When the test was repeated in 1965 by M.T. Orne and F. J. Evans they found that five of six hypnotized subjects complied with the suggestion. Orne and Evans, however, also decided to try the test with "simulators," people who were not hypnotized but were told to "act" hypnotized. (Simulators are used as a scientific control to determine if there is an actual hypnotic effect involved in a specific suggestion and that the subject isn't just complying to please the hypnotist.) Interestingly enough, Orne and Evans' simulators performed the experiment better than the hypnotized subjects: all six of the simulators threw the acid.

This was one of the first demonstrable cracks in the theory of the "evil hypnotist." Suddenly it appeared as if something other than the supposed power of hypnotism might be responsible for subjects who act against their own moral code. Orne and Evans wondered if the clinical setting might have influenced the simulators—surely the experimental simulators knew that there would be some protection for the research assistant! If the simulators didn't know, then they committed a

dangerous act just because a researcher asked them to do so.

## THE ANSWER

The answer to the relationship between hypnotism and of mind control had been there all along but was invisible because it was so obvious. Dr. Herbert Spiegel, among other noted hypnotists, points out that "Everyone is suggestible to some degree." That is why there are commercials on TV. But what is it that allows a person to dominate another?

Dr. Stanley Milgram may have found the answer. In an astonishing study he conducted over a decade ago he set up an experiment to test how far a normal person would follow instructions. The test involved three people, only one of whom was an experimental subject. A research assistant asked questions of a third person who was actually another researcher. The third person was hidden in another room and communicated with the first researcher through an intercom to remain unseen. When the researcher asked the third person (the assistant) questions, the third person would answer incorrectly. When an incorrect answer was given, the experimental subject was supposed to send a mild electric shock to the third person. Actually the shock was never delivered.

This placed the experimental subject in the uncomfortable position of taking commands from a "higher up" (the researcher or first research assistant) and then carrying out those orders on a "lower down" (the hidden research assistant). The catch to the test was that as the experiment progressed the third person was to pretend that the shocks were becoming more and more painful and that he was suffering skin burns and even a heart attack. All of this was designed to put further pressure on the experimental subject.

The doctor who developed the test was confident that all of the experimental subjects would stop administering "shocks" after the third person began complaining. He was not prepared for the results.

Amazingly, *65 per cent* of the experimental subjects continued to administer shocks even when the third person cried piteously, faked a heart attack and pretended to die! The experimental subjects afterwards tried to explain their callous behavior with familiar refrains: "I didn't mean to hurt anybody; I didn't know what was happening; I was only following orders." The study was published under the title *Obedience to Authority*.

This also explains the mind-control/hypnosis riddle. Why did Orne and Evans' simulators throw

acid at another person's face? They were only obeying the authority figure of the research scientist. Hypnosis wasn't necessary to produce destructive obedience.

## HISTORY RETHOUGHT

In the same fashion we can look back at each one of the historical cases of "hypnotism and mind control" and find the same commander-obeyer relationship:

• Did Josephine actually fall victim to some strange hypnotic spell brought on by Thimotheus or did his odd behavior alone convince her that he had the power of control?

• What about the women Emile Mesnet "violated" in his study? At that time physicians were among society's highest level of authority. The held the power of life and death over their patients. Women, in general, were supposed to be subservient to men. The many modern instances of male psychiatrists and physicians who seduce *unhypnotized* female patients further attests to the power inherent in their position.

• "Hypnosis is not necessary for this conditioning," writes French hypnotist Jean Dauvan, "but it can facilitate it." So it appears in both the Manson and Candy Jones cases. Manson used hypnotic techniques, but where hypnotism left off and drug/sex/mysticism-induced compliance began leaves the situation muddled. Candy Jones began cooperating with Jensen because she passionately believed in doing whatever she could to help her country and Jensen convinced her that this was the way to be fully patriotic. Later, when she began to fight his control, he resorted to drugs and murder threats to keep her in line—definitely non-hypnotic techniques!

In other words, it doesn't require either a hypnotist or hypnotism to convince someone to perform an immoral or illegal act. All it takes is a person's willingness to follow directions.

## TRUST

The relationship between a hypnotist and a subject is built on trust. Most people who undergo hypnotism today do it in either a therapist's office or at a research facility. Both settings inspire trust through our nearly universal faith in the scientific community.

In that moment of entering the state of hypnosis the subject does not give up or lose himself or herself. Even during the most profound hypnosis a portion of the subject's innermost mind pays careful attention to instructions and makes a decision whether to follow them or not. This portion of the mind has been called the *observer*, and it operates *all the time*—during hypnosis, during

sleep, even while the person is unconscious from injury or anesthetic. It is not only hypnosis that affects the observer, it is the relationship between two people in the therapeutic setting.

This is why there are not more instances of hypnotic domination in spite of the increasing use of hypnotism as an aid to habit control, weight loss and in conquering phobias. Most people who undergo hypnotism find that it improves their sense of personal power and control—not that they turn their volition over to a hypnotist. The vast majority of hypnotized patients who are asked to do something against their principles either awaken from the hypnosis or simply refuse.

Even with the very real power of hypnotic suggestion to affect physical health and well being there is increasing evidence that the old dogma is still quite true: "Hypnotism cannot make a person violate their own moral code..." The remainder of this principle however, should be: "...but higher-ups and authority figures, with enough intimidation, might be able to make a person violate their own moral code."

The greatest defense against this type of control is a combination of knowledge, awareness of one's own beliefs and a sense of self-responsibility, qualities that have stood in good light for thousands of years.

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# My God! It's Shuck!

**Did I meet a thousand-year-old Viking raider's dog one night many years ago on a coastal road in England? I'm not certain anymore...**

**By D. Tyler Hendricks**

In 1952, I joined the Army and was sent to England. There I was assigned to an antiaircraft battalion's radar site overlooking the North Sea and green Norfolk countryside. Duty was light, and I had plenty of time to move about and explore.

On one of my walks I met an Englishman named Patrick Kearney. We became friends, and occasionally I visited him at his cottage near the beach in a village called Cley-by-the-Sea.

Late one day, with a book under my jacket to be returned to him, I walked the few miles to my friend's home. I enjoyed our chats. He was better educated than I was then, and a little older, having served with the British army in Burma. He was an artist. Patrick didn't seem to care much what people thought, for which I both admired and envied him.

On that night we sat talking in a room lit by the fireplace's glowing coals. It was late when something prompted me to jocularly mention the frequent appearance in the English press of stories about ghosts and such. I fully expected Patrick to respond with a laugh. He did not. Instead, dead serious, he related several tales of his own of this type. Embarrassed, I did not interrupt.

His final story was about an

apparition reputed to have been encountered periodically for a very long time. There are variations, but Patrick's version was this:

**THE LEGEND OF SHUCK**

During the ninth century, the coastal area which includes Norfolk was often pillaged by Viking raiders. Their ships would suddenly appear in a defenseless sea village's harbor, and the terror began.

Among the Vikings was a leader who always brought with him his huge, vicious dog. The English called the animal "Shuck." One night, on a raid somewhere along these shores, this leader's band met unexpected resistance, and in their retreat, the dog was left behind. On following nights, Shuck ran up and down the coast looking for his master and the ship. Not finding them, he has continued his search ever since.

At least, that is what folks around there believe. Over the years, many in those parts have reported meeting Shuck, most often on moonlit nights, sometimes with unhappy results.

I am the son of a doctor who had little tolerance for such myths. Overall, my attitude on this subject was (and remains) similar to his. That night I was Patrick's guest. I did not scoff, but I had learned he possessed a nutty side. As soon as I could, I left.

I'm not sure what the hour was; I remember the lights were out in the pub not far from Patrick's house. Familiar with the road, accustomed to returning alone to my barracks in the dark, I had never been afraid in rural Norfolk. This night was no different.

**A TRIP THROUGH THE DARK**

From Patrick's door (where one could hear the sea), I walked down the curved main street through Cley, past an old windmill, and began the gentle ascent toward Blakeney, the second of three villages I would go through. Once in a while the moon came out from behind clouds to aid my seeing the road.

I may have thought about Patrick's words as I walked, I'm not sure. It seems likely my attention was mostly occupied with making certain my feet correctly found the macadam in the dark. No auto passed.

The moon came out as I reached the church at the top of the hill at Blakeney's outskirts, then went under again as I started down the other side.

When I arrived at the base of the hill, Blakeney was behind me. On my right there was marsh between the road and the sea, on the left a hedgerow and an empty field behind it. I was on the road to Morston, the last village before my barracks. The night remained quiet and ordinary.

When it entered my consciousness, the noise was indistinct. It came from somewhere in back of me. I glanced over my shoulder, and saw nothing in the moonless gloom. The sound continued, growing more discrete, nudging the edge of memory, calling up uneasy feelings. I kept turning my head to better listen.

Suddenly I knew! It was the sound made by a dog's nails on pavement, in this case a running dog soon to overtake me! I stopped, turned, and faced the sound, still in control, my heart ready to spring to my throat. At that moment I didn't think of Shuck, only of keeping peace with the stranger I was about to meet.

"Good boy," I called softly, holding out my hand in the dark, hoping my voice didn't betray me. He kept coming. "Nice boy, here boy," I said. On he came, making his loud, then louder "scratch! scratch!" sound in the dark. With my heart racing now, I kept up a low, propitiatory incanting of "Good boy, good boy."

Without pausing, he ran past me, a presence felt but not seen against dark hedgerow. Then the noise receded, and with it my fear.

### "MY GOD! IT'S SHUCK!"

Moments later the moon came out. Ahead I saw a dog, all right, lopping up a rise in the road, an agile, calf-sized canine. "My God!" I thought, "It's Shuck!" Then I dismissed the thought.

I left England soon afterward. Thereafter the incident came to mind from time to time. I made it one of the stories I told my children, though always recited while wearing a half smile of disbelief.

In 1972, I returned to England, and visited a now more prosperous, married Patrick. For the first time I related to him what I had not told before.

### PSYCHOLOGY OR...?

Patrick was certain I'd seen Shuck. But aloud to him, I strongly expressed disbelief. And who would not? Today virtually any adult is amateur psychologist enough to recognize my experience as no more than a midnight concoction of equal parts suggestion, coincidence and fear.

But to tell the truth, that perfectly good explanation has never seemed good enough. For some reason Patrick's view feels right, and I wonder why. Is it possible my equal mix of Viking and English peasant genes carry vague memories of ancient places and ideas?

Sometimes late at night, when my body is nearing sleep, scenes return from that brief encounter on a Norfolk road, and I hear my voice in the dark saying to no one, "My God! It's Shuck!"

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# AN INTRODUCTION TO ASTROLOGY

## Part 1—History

**A popular astrologer shares knowledge of her science in a way that is easy to understand. In this first part of a two-part article she discusses the history of astrology.**

By Linda Chamlee Black

People have been trying to make sense out of this world we live in for quite some time. Astrology is one of the more fascinating and enduring products of this quest. It links the natural environment with our personal feelings, events in our lives and even our good or bad luck. If you accept the premise that each of us is just part of a bigger whole you can't help but wonder what you could do to improve your chances. Astrologers think the first step is to figure out what's going on.

Long before written records were kept and before television or bright lights obscured the view, people used to watch the sky. Then, as now, if you spent night after night with this form of entertainment you'd see that some of the little white dots seem to travel across a pattern that holds relatively still. The recognizable clusters of stars were given names based on the deities or other images they brought to mind. They form a framework against which you can chart the movement of the planets, Sun and Moon. In astrological folklore the constellations or *signs* are not considered to have a direct impact on us by themselves. The characteristics of each sign are

triggered by the temporary location of a more portable sphere, such as the Moon, in the area of the sky where the sign is located.

## THE ANTIQUITY OF ASTROLOGY

The Greek historian Solon is said to have estimated that astronomical observations and calculations had begun 9,000 years before his time. That was about 11,000 years ago. We don't know the evidence on which he based this information but it correlates roughly with the time we think hunters and gatherers started forming into agrarian communities in the Tigris/Euphrates valley in the Middle East. Stone Age markings on bone have been found that seem to indicate people were keeping track of lunar cycles as early as 32,000 years ago. Of course, if people had developed symbols to write this information down they probably had noticed the phenomenon much earlier.

It was quite a bit later, however, somewhere around 3,000 B.C., when the first known recorded calendar was devised. The Sumerians based it on another of their inventions, the circle divided into 360 parts or degrees. They divided the year into 12 months, each with its own deity and accompanying symbol. To the Sumerians, the four main spheres of nature were heaven, air, earth and water. By "heaven" they meant the bright, heavenly bodies. Those categories have been passed down through the folklore as fire, air, earth and water.

Thirty-six bright stars and constellations were initially named as markers for plotting the movement of the Sun, Moon and planets along what appeared to be their path in the sky. Twelve of those have survived as the signs of the *zodiac*.

The Sumerian deities, of which there were thousands, ruled every aspect of life. They were manifested through rainfall, the growth of vegetation and the movements of the planets, the Sun and the Moon. Everything was considered to be related.

Astrology back then included the studies of astronomy, psychology, theology, warfare, farming and mathematics. The separation between the various disciplines is actually quite recent, stemming from around the time of the Industrial Revolution, and may only be temporary.

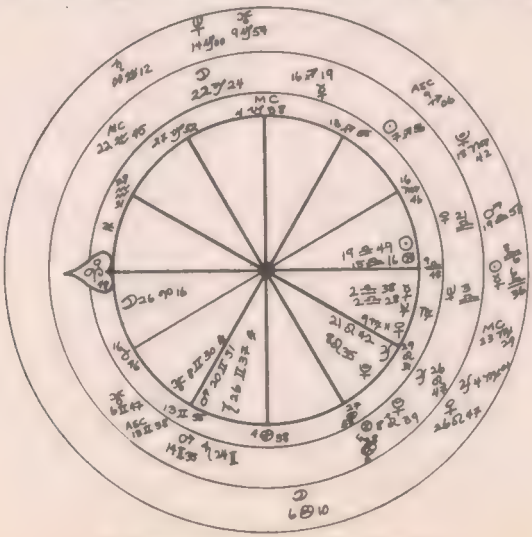
Astrological computations and stories were passed down through the Egyptian dynasties and the Greek and Roman empires. They were modified along the way. Apparently the Egyptians took their studies seriously and used astrological charts to help them

make all of their decisions. The Greeks and Romans adopted the practice, although they seemed to hold it with a lighter hand. They also personified each planet and sign with the names of their own gods and goddesses.

Hipparchus, a Greek astrologer (190-120 B.C.), is regarded as the founder of observational astronomy. He had an observatory on the island of Rhodes and through his work there he discovered that the constellations, which were thought to be fixed in the sky, actually seem to change position, too.

A contemporary astronomer, Percy Seymour, explains in his recent book *Astrology, the Evidence of Science*, that an even earlier Greek astrologer, Eudoxus (409-356 B.C.), had written a book called *The Phaenomena*, in which he described the constellations of the zodiac. As mentioned previously, the constellations are groups of stars that have been given names. They form the background, called the zodiac, to help identify the locations of the Sun, Moon and planets. The constellation that is rising in the east freezes the picture for a specific moment, and that's what is drawn in an astrological chart (see figure below).

Apparently Eudoxus said that the *spring equinox* (when night and day are of equal length, around



An example of a complex type of astrological chart known as a *progressed chart.*

March 21) was on the first degree of Aries. Hipparchus, however, had seen that the constellation behind the Sun on the spring equinox wasn't 0 degrees Aries at all.

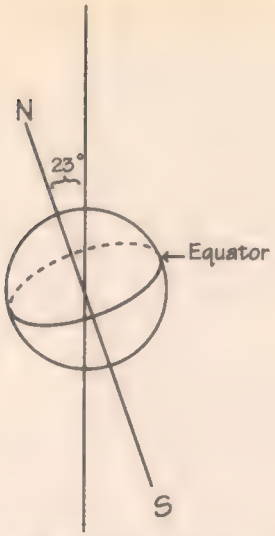
Percy Seymour explains that only from the equator is it possible to see all the constellations. From any other point in the Northern Hemisphere we can't see the ones near the South Pole and vice versa. It's difficult to see them at any rate since climatic conditions (rain, clouds, etc.) often obscure the view, and the light of the Sun, of course, hides everything behind it for most of the daylight hours. Since Hipparchus's observatory on Rhodes was closer to the equator than the location where Eudoxus had been, Hipparchus had a better view. It seems, however, that he was the only one actually looking!

Seymour writes that W. D. Ovenden, then of Glasgow University, studied a poem on Eudoxus's work written by Aratus (315-250 B.C.) which is the only known record of Eudoxus's data. Ovenden estimated that the conditions described by Aratus existed in the sky around 2,000 B.C., give or take 200 years. That means that Eudoxus was not basing the placement of the constellations on his own observations but on information that was observed about 1,600 years before he was born! Ovenden further surmised that Eudoxus was using information generated by observations that took place on the island of Minos. The Minoan culture, which was considered the first great European civilization, was destroyed by volcanic explosion around 1450 B.C.

## PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOXES

Hipparchus had stumbled upon the phenomenon known as the *precession of the equinoxes*. The part of the sky that was behind the spring equinox had changed. Although he didn't understand why, we now know that this phenomenon is caused because the Earth wobbles on its axis. If you were to draw a straight line down the axis of the Earth and out into space, the wobble would make the line outline a cone (see diagram on next page). It takes about 25,800 years to complete the imaginary figure.

The Sumerians (assimilated by the Babylonians around 1950 B.C.) had the ability, through mathematical computations, to predict the positions of the Moon and the five planets nearest the Earth without having to actually see them. It seems that ancient astrologers stopped observing the planets once it had become possible to determine the positions of the planets mathematically. The Babylonians or Minoans may




The wobbling of the Earth's axis creates precession of the equinoxes. From an illustration by author.

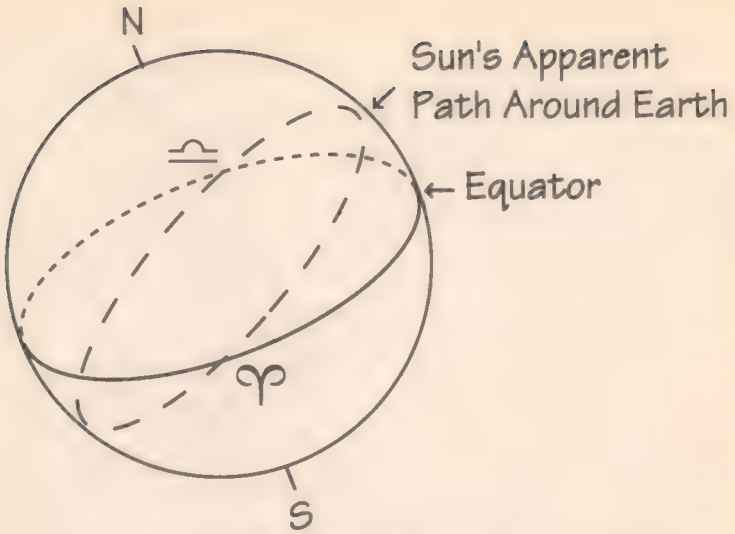
actually have been aware of the fact that the sky slowly changed behind the planets. The information does not appear to influence local predictions, but rather it flavors an entire 2,000-year epoch.

When the observation that Eudoxus used was made, around 2,000 B.C., the spring equinox was at 0 degrees Aries. By the time of Hipparchus it had apparently moved to nearer 0 degrees Pisces. Currently it is just entering Aquarius. Each of these phases is known as a *great year* or *age* to astrologers and is marked by the characteristics associated with the sign on the eastern horizon at the spring equinox *and* of the sign directly across the zodiac (in *opposition* or *polarity*).

**ARISTOTLE**

The Greek philosopher Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) was also an astrologer who believed that the motions of the planets affected life on Earth. His view of the universe, with the Earth in the center and everything revolving around it, was considered to be scientific truth for almost 2,000 years.

The constellation marking each age is supposedly indicative of thinking patterns that symbolize the entire era. The method of dub-




The Equinoxes
From an original drawing by author.

bing the spring equinox as 0 degrees Aries, however, is still used by astronomers as well as astrologers.

As mentioned before, the constellations themselves do not appear to have any impact on the individual. It is the location of the planets, Sun and Moon in relationship to the Earth and to each other that is important. Locating 0 degrees Aries at the vernal (spring) equinox works to give us a relatively stable format upon which to plot the movement of the planets. Likewise, the summer solstice, the longest day, marks 0 degrees Cancer, the autumnal equinox is 0 degrees Libra and the winter solstice is always at 0 degrees Capricorn.

(*Editor's note:* The explanation given above is for the most common form of astrology used in the West known as *tropical* astrology. Another form of astrology, which uses the actual positions of planets in relation to the constellations, known as *sidereal* astrology, is used in varying forms in other cultures, such as that of India, and is gaining popularity for certain purposes in the West.)

## ASTROLOGY SINCE THE TIME OF JESUS

The age we are leaving, that of Pisces, was marked at its begin-

ning by the birth of Jesus. Many believe that the three Wise Men—who were first to recognize Him—were astrologers. Early Christians had mixed feelings about astrology, though. Some felt it was useful while others thought it was at best a fraud and at worst the work of evil spirits.

Astrology survived Europe's "Dark Ages" (as did many other forms of science and philosophy) through the work of Arabian scholars. Albumasur (805-885) wrote the *Introductorium in Astronomiam* wherein he claimed that "only by observing the great diversity of planetary motions can we comprehend the unnumbered varieties of change in this world." His book found its way to Europe at the beginning of the Middle Ages and helped ignite a new interest in both astrology and astronomy.

St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-74)
Drawing by author

## THE EFFECT OF AQUINAS

St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-74), perhaps the greatest of all Christian theologians, also commented on astrology. He advised that, as long as it did not include necromancy, astrology was worthy of intellectual study. He said that it could, moreover, be seen as complementing the recognized Church doctrine, particularly in its view of the universe.

Necromancy, the act of calling up the spirits of dead people to predict the future, is not a regular part of the astrologer's skills, although some may have independently used it. Likewise, alchemy, extrasensory perception, alternative religious practices and mediumship are not included in any astrologer's standard training, although astrologers may study some of those subjects on their own.

Astrology is only the study of the movements of the planets, Sun and Moon and the computations and stories that accompany each orb and sign in an attempt to discover a predictable influence on earthbound beings and events. Asking the dead to help is cheating!

St. Thomas Aquinas's approval did help re-establish astrology as a respected branch of learning again. Major British and European universities included it in their curricula. It was again considered an honorable profession and

practitioners served as advisors to religious as well as secular leaders. Many of the latter were students of the art themselves. For example, it's rumored that Pope Sixtus IV (1414-84) was able to draw up and interpret horoscopes on his own.

Pope Sixtus IV (1414-84)
Drawn by author.

Until about the late 16th century it was quite common for educated people to compile and use astrological charts to plan their daily activities and to give themselves an advantage in their business and romantic dealings. Chaucer (1340-1400) made many references to astrologers. In his *Canterbury Tales* the Wife of Bath said,

"Myn ascendant was Taur, and Mars therinne. Allas, allas, that ever love was sinne!"

This is a reference to the lusty proclivity of Taurus, the most sensual of all the signs. Mars signifies aggression which means this woman took it upon herself to provide for her lusty needs, and did heartily enjoy the task!

Nicolai Copernicus (1473-1543) was a Slav born in Polish Prussia. He greatly increased the accuracy of charts by providing better computations and formulating tables to help locate the positions of the planets, Sun and Moon. He apparently suspected that the Sun was holding still and the planets were moving around it. He is known to have studied the work of Pythagoras (569-470 B.C.), to whom he attributed the theory, although neither of them was able to prove it.

## SHAKESPEARE, ASTROLOGY AND FREE WILL

Shakespeare (1564-1616) used astrological jargon and concepts throughout his plays. His references would have been easily understood by his audiences who were generally familiar with all the signs and their characteristics. He didn't seem to take the subject very seriously, although the characters in his plays who are the most critical of astrology are the villains. In *King Lear* he has the bastard Edmund go into quite a tirade on the matter:

"This is the excellent foppery of the world, that when we are sick in fortune—often the surfeits of our own behavior—we

### PTOLEMY

About 200 years after the death of Hipparchus, and at least 100 years after the birth of Jesus, Claudius Ptolemy, an astrologer from Alexandria (120-180), catalogued 300 new stars and explained the refraction of light. He wrote that he was sure the positions of the planets affect the weather "and other earthly things." In his *Tetrabiblos* he recorded a wealth of astrological information, including an explanation of how to compute a chart. He wrote down the characteristics of each planet, house and sign, probably reporting on well-established myths. His descriptions of the attributes of the signs, houses and planets have been essentially maintained to this day. That is especially interesting because astrologers do not necessarily study Ptolemy.

make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon and the stars, as if we were villains by necessity, fools by heavenly compulsion, knaves, thieves and treachers by spherical predominance, drunkards, liars and adulterers by an enforc'd obedience of planetary influence, and all that we are evil in, by a divine thrusting on. An admirable evasion of whoremaster man, to lay his goatish disposition on the charge of a star! My father compounded with my mother under the Dragon's tail, and my nativity was under Ursa Major, so that it follows I am rough and lecherous. Tut, I should have been that I am, had the maidenl'est star in the firmament twinkled on my bastardizing."

Perhaps unknowingly, Edmund is also providing an excellent example of the concept of free will. And he is right. To blame the planets for our misfortunes is missing the point. Astrology is better used to locate problem areas and to assist in overcoming them, just like any good therapy. It doesn't make any more sense to blame the stars than it does to blame one's ethnic heritage or one's height above the planet in stocking feet. Although all may be factors the individual has to deal with, the choices are still made by each person, who is the unique sum of all the parts.

A contemporary of Shakespeare's, Lord John Napier (1550-1617), was a renowned mathematician as well as an astrologer. He devised the table of logarithms to make it easier to figure out how far a planet travels in a specific length of time. Astrologers and other scientists have been greatly in his debt ever

since. His tables are used to this day to manually calculate an astrological chart.

Tycho Brahe (1546-1601), a Dane, was the most distinguished and accurate stargazer since Hipparchus, 1,700 years earlier. Through the patronage of King Frederic he was able to set up a laboratory and devote his full time to the study. He believed that "no theories ought to be indulged in until preparations had been made by the accumulation of accurate observations." To further that end he designed new instruments, made exhaustive calculations and prepared the most accurate tables to that date. He was even able to correct the work of Copernicus. He also produced astrological charts and advised the king with their assistance.

## KEPLER'S REVOLUTION

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) was Brahe's student and furthered Brahe's work considerably. From the information Brahe had accumulated Kepler was able to disprove Plato's idea of uniform circular motions of the planets, a theory which had been the standard assumption for hundreds of years. He determined that the planets have an elliptical, not circular, motion and that they revolve around the Sun.

This was shattering news to

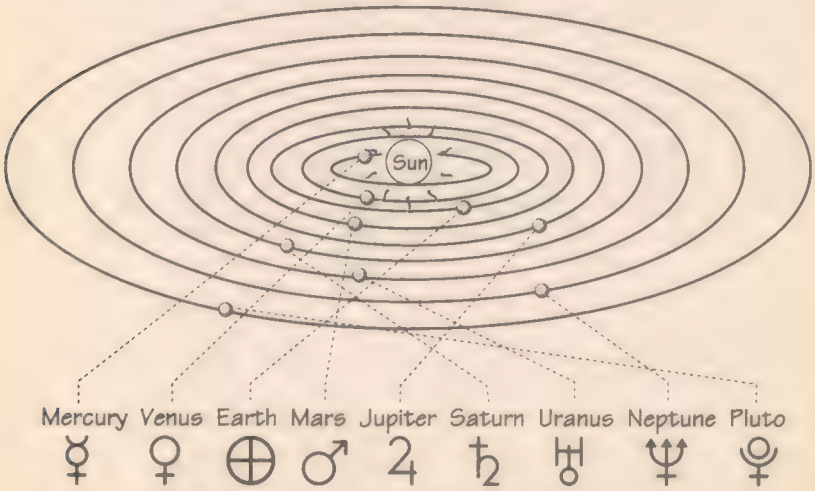
From author's original drawing of the universe the way Aristotle thought it looked. This idea illustrates the scientific consensus from his time (384-322 B.C.) to Kepler's time (1571-1630 A.D.)

the astrological community as well as to the religious establishment of the day. Not only did it threaten to disrupt the way charts had been drawn for centuries, but it seemed to imply that we were not at the center of God's plan.

It did not, however, make the interpretation of charts any less (or more) reliable. Actually, a chart is still drawn with the Earth in the center, just as it has been from the beginning. (The Earth is represented by the point in the middle of the chart where all the lines intersect.) It's valid because astrologers are concerned with the positions of the planets in relationship to life on Earth. If we were drawing a chart for somebody born on Mars then Mars would be in the middle and Earth's position would be charted into one of the houses.

(*Editor's note:* Some Western astrologers are now investigating *heliocentric* astrology which does place the Sun at the center of the chart; however, most forms of astrology interpret the chart with the Earth at the center as described above.)

Kepler seemed to believe astrology had merit and that we might be affected by what goes on in outer space. He said, "Man is made from the elements, and absorbs them as much as food or drink, from which it follows that man must also, like the elements,




"More Like The Way It Is" (Original by the author).
Not drawn to scale, this illustration gives a more accurate description of our solar system as proven by Kepler (1571-1630).

be subject to the influence of the planets." He also felt that man was not bound by this relationship, but that God had given him the aptitude to be able to conquer the extraterrestrial influences.

Though he was appointed Imperial Astronomer, that job was no longer as profitable as it had been for his predecessor. In fact, he seems to have been compelled to make his living by casting and reading horoscopes, a time-consuming practice that can require extensive interaction with the client. He would apparently rather have been doing research full time since he complained, "for a hundred years past, this wise mother [astronomy] could not have lived without the help of her foolish daughter [astrology]."

Galileo Galilei, an Italian contemporary of Kepler (1564-1642) was also an astrologer. In 1609 he developed one of the first telescopes ever used and with it discovered spots on the Sun, hills and valleys on the Moon, the moons of Jupiter and Saturn's rings. He was interrogated and placed under house arrest by the Inquisition for his support of Kepler's theory that the Earth revolved around the Sun, but not for his astrological studies.

In 1687 Isaac Newton published the *Principia Mathematica*. In it he verified the "law of universal gravitation":

Every particle of matter in the universe attracts every other particle with a force varying inversely as the square of the distance between them and directly as the product of the masses of the two particles.

This discovery enabled him to explain the flattening of the Earth's poles and the tilt of the Earth, and hence the cause of the precession of equinoxes observed by Hipparchus centuries earlier. It was also further proof of an interrelationship between all things in the universe.

## THE DECLINE OF ASTROLOGY

The new "Rationalist" movement, however, was in the process of distancing scientific thought from all religious and intuitive cognizance. This rift, which survives to the current day, has been significant. Astrology suffered a decline in esteem that endured until at least the mid-19th century. Only recently is there an indication that the study may regain its respectability. Although that lofty state has not yet been firmly achieved (in spite of the help of believers such as Nancy and Ronald Reagan), astrologers predict that it will come soon.

In February of 1962 there was a massive collection of planets in the sign of Aquarius, known to

be the sign of the freethinker and problem solver. This collection may have marked the beginning of the transition into the Age of Aquarius. Although at that time the Sun at the vernal equinox would still have had the constellation Pisces in the background, by 1988 the Sun would have been seen against the constellation of Aquarius on March 21. Therefore, the Age of Aquarius has only just begun.

If the predictions hold true, the next 2,000 years will be a period when astrology, as well as other studies curiously lumped together as "occult," will again receive serious consideration and respect. One day it may even seem ridiculous that people have been willing to discard such ancient and vast bodies of knowledge as impossible just because they were temporarily (or, perhaps permanently) unexplainable by means of what are considered to be standard scientific measurements.

## A THEORY WITH SCIENTIFIC BACKING

British astronomer Percy Seymour has recently come up with a theory that might help bridge the gap. He is looking for scientific reasons for astrological phenomena and using astrological principles to predict scientifically ascertainable events. He is also running into opposition from the scientific community that he said is reminiscent of the bigotry he experienced as a mulatto child growing up in South Africa. Some of his colleagues are apparently disregarding his theory before they have even read it.

Luckily for Seymour, and for all of us, he is already well established as an astronomer. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical

## MAYAN ASTROLOGY

In pre-Columbian America the Mayans also developed a circular calendar and divided the year into 365 days. They cast horoscopes, too, which were used not only for making bureaucratic decisions, but also to determine an individual's life path. When a baby was five days old his or her horoscope was cast to determine the child's future. Based on that information the child would be classified as a soldier, priest, civil servant or sacrificial victim. Since a chart can't really tell if somebody should live or die, it can only be supposed that everyone not suited for one of the three former occupations was honored with the latter. Although charts are still used to help make career choices, thankfully they are not usually life threatening!

Society and principal lecturer in astronomy at the Plymouth Polytechnic Institute in southwest England. He is also the Director of the college's William Day Planetarium. As a graduate student he helped establish the existence of magnetic fields in the Milky Way. His book, *Adventures with Astronomy*, teaches children how to make telescopes. His text *Cosmic Magnetism* has been called a valiant attempt to explain magnetism to the layman.

His most recent book, however, *Astrology: The Evidence of Science*, is the one that is causing all the controversy. Seymour's theory is that astrology may be explained by the magnetic activity of the Sun and magnetic fields in space in relationship to the motion of the planets. He suggests that such forces could be transmitted to the Earth via solar winds. He asserts that the Sun is literally boiling with magnetism, producing sunspots and solar flares that influence all kinds of things on Earth, from the activities of bacteria to the migration of birds.

Seymour also says that the planets pull and tug at the magnetic fields around the Earth, especially as they fall into patterns, clump together, or square off in opposition. He suggests that these patterns might even be responsible for the reversal of the Sun's magnetic field which happens roughly every 11 years and is marked by the beginning of a new sunspot cycle.

This suggests a correlation between changes in the magnetic field of the Sun and the *angles* (differences in degrees between the planets, Sun and Moon on a chart.) astrologers find significant; i.e., oppositions (180 degrees), squares (90 degrees) and conjunctions (0 degrees or next to one another). Seymour theorizes that he may be able to predict the next period of peak solar magnetic activity (the sunspot maximum) by using the predictable positions of the planets as a guide. No one has been able to do this yet, so if he can accomplish it he will greatly assist in reintegrating astrology with astronomy.

That would certainly be helpful. The sciences need to work together, not fight. In astrological folklore it is believed that if you can learn from the person who annoys you the most you will begin to access your own greatest potential. The main problem with those who would debunk astrology is that they close down the learning process. That's even more tragic when they are the very ones who could help the most.

We need more scientists, not fewer, working on this project.

We may be at the point when we need to either evolve further as the human race or become extinct. We need to develop all of our resources. Rather than negating this ancient study out-of-hand it seems much more intelligent to try and figure out *why* it works. If that's too hard we should at least be open-minded enough to consider the possibility that it does work. It's just possible that there's more going on in the universe than we fully comprehend at this time.

We still have questions about the universe and its relationship to us, the same questions that were in the minds of the people who began this study thousands of years ago.

**NEXT ISSUE:** *An Introduction to Astrology* Part 2. What a Chart Means. Also included will be the references for both parts of this article.

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## STEINERISMS

*By Paul Steiner*

### GARDEN BRINGS FORTH A CROP OF GOLD

A property owner and amateur gardener in Wallersdorf (Bavaria) was recently rewarded with more than cabbages and tomatoes for his labors. Along with the usual rocks, weeds and grubs, every now and then the man's shovel would turn up little key-shaped gold pieces. A local newspaper reported that this had taken place for over 15 years. Jewelers to whom the finds were taken were not able to provide any information about their value or origin.

The man finally sought out the archaeologist of the town of Dingolfing-Landau who recognized the objects' significance and called in several colleagues. Armed with metal detectors the group descended on the garden and raised a treasure consisting of 400 Celtic coins from the first century B.C. and valued at around a half-million marks. The treasure will be purchased with public funds and placed on exhibit.

### QUICKIES...

• A hunter on Long Island, New York, lost his life when the shotgun he was using to club a deer to death (he had previously wounded the animal) discharged, killing him.

• Marvin Mitchelson, the celebrity lawyer, taped a segment for a *20/20* TV show. He always stays at the Regency Hotel in New York. By coincidence he was given suite 2020 when he checked in from Los Angeles for the taping.

• No fat people can be found in Stone Age cave or rock paintings. Cave dwellers dined far more simply and nutritiously than we do, according to Kathy Keeton's *Longevity*. They ate lean wild game, an occasional fattier *aurochs* (wild ox) steak, fish, wild plants, fruits, nuts and berries.

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# MIDNIGHT MESSAGES

**Being prepared for a loved one's death doesn't always make it easier to accept— It was my dreams that finally brought me through the Dark Night of the Soul.**

**By Betty Morris**

The last conversation I had with my mother was on a May morning in 1989. Just before she was wheeled into the operating room for surgery, she said to me again, as she had been saying for months, "This is it. I won't make it. You know those dreams I've been having..."

Since childhood I have experienced the accuracy of dreams in predicting (and preparing us for) the future. I believed my mother's "this is it prophecy" as evidenced by my final words to her,"I wish you well on your trip, Mom. I love you so much. I know we'll be together again some day."

At 5:00 that evening I talked to my father and he said my mother was fine and the surgery had gone well. Five hours later, however, my mother was in a coma. She had suffered a fatal heart attack while in the recovery room. On Mother's Day 1989 my mother passed away. *Her* mother, as well, had died on Mother's Day in 1974.

As it turned out, Mom hadn't shared her prophetic dreams with everyone. Several people thought me strange to claim that Mom had known she was going to die. What proof did I have that I wasn't generating a story just to make others more accepting of

her death?

The proof of Mom's death premonition came from the best source: Mom herself. When my father got dressed for the funeral, in his jacket pocket he discovered a good-bye note written by Mom the morning she went into the hospital. The note outlined her prophetic dreams, her belief that she was returning to God and deceased loved ones, as well as earthly issues such as who got what.

It was through dreams that Mom cured me of the depression I entered into after she died. Foolishly, I had believed that since I was "prepared" for her death, the grieving period one naturally goes through when losing a parent would be short and not so severe.

After several weeks of feeling deeply sorry for myself, some friends' and co-workers' concern for my state of mind turned to annoyance. I was beginning to feel shunned and wanted desperately to feel like my old self again. Fortunately, my late mother took advantage of my inclination to follow the guidance brought to me through dreams.

Below are the dreams that helped me accept my mother's death. Not only have I now accepted her death, I'm truly relieved to know that she's happy.

The first two dreams came just after she died. They were identical and a week apart:

My mother was lying on my bed. She was dead. Her skin was gray and her hands were across her chest. I was standing over her dead body, screaming and crying hysterically. My husband was sitting on the other side of the bed and felt helpless. "I don't know what to do with you," he said repeatedly. (In reality he had reached this point, too.) Mom would open her eyes and squint at my husband, then cut a glance my way, then go back to being dead. She did this a few times. Finally she became quite irritated with my husband's inability to get me under control and she sat up, looked at him disapprovingly, then turned to me and said, "Oh! For God's sake, Betty Jane, would you please let me be dead?" With that, I regained my composure and apologized to her. End of dream.

The third dream came about a month after the first two dreams:

The entire family was at my parents' house in West Virginia. Everyone was sitting around the dining room table giving full attention to Mom's stories about the people she had been reunited with. While Mom talked incessantly, I kept thinking how radiant she looked, being fully aware that I've never associated radiance with her. But that's how she looked—radiant. Everyone asked

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questions about the other side and of friends and relatives that had long passed on. Mom answered our questions, reiterating at every chance that those who have passed on have been with us all along. Suddenly, I realized that she's dead and I said, "Hey Mom, you're dead. How are you going to get back?"

"Oh, that's easy," she said. "When you wake up I simply won't be here."

End of dream.

The first two dreams adjusted me emotionally. The third dream reinforced my belief in eternal life. The fourth dream, as described below, made clear that we're all spiritual beings, inseparable in life or death.

The entire family and all of our friends (including those who have died) were at a family-style restaurant. The noise level was high and everyone was having a great time. I was sitting with my parents and the three of us were laughing uncontrollably.

Suddenly I turned to my mom and said, "Hey! You're dead! A lot of these people are dead. What are you all doing here?" As I spoke, I reached out to touch her shoulder but my hand went right through her and I gasped. In protest, I screamed and stomped my feet and shouted, "Maaa!" (as if she had deceived me). Crying and angry, I stood before her, hands on my hips, foot tapping impatiently, and in a condescending tone demanded an explanation. The room was enveloped in silence as we waited for her to speak.

Mom's facial expression glowed, emulating the patience and understanding of a saint as she said, "But we're all spirit."

End of dream.

We're all spirit. We're all eternally connected, aware of it or not. I understand now that dying means leaving the physical body, but the ability to communicate with and affect the lives of others is never taken away—just underappreciated.

∞

# VALENTINE'S DAY MARTYRS

*By John Ellis Sech*

Many people consider Valentine's Day the most romantic day of the year. Few realize that the day was established to celebrate the martyrdom of two early Christians.

Two brothers named Valentine were beheaded on Rome's Flaminian Way in the 3rd century A.D. It was decided that a feast day to honor them would be celebrated on February 14 in order to divert people from celebrating Lupercalia, an ancient Roman fertility festival.

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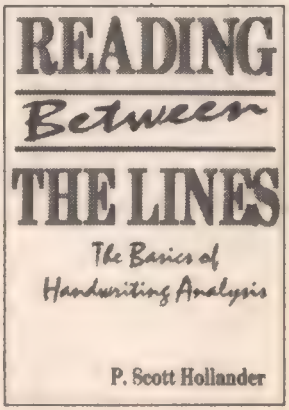


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# ASTRO ALMANAC

*By Anne Lyddane*

**The best astrological days to participate in the following activities during February 1992. Combines Sun, Moon and Planetary Aspects with Sign Positions.**

Apply for a job:
3, 6, 14, 20, 27
Ask for a raise or promotion:
6, 13, 14, 19, 29
Ask for credit or a loan:
3, 6, 14, 20, 27
Buy antiques or jewelry:
1, 10, 14, 19
Buy a car or have repairs done:
6, 13, 14, 20, 29
Buy a permanent home:
1, 3, 14, 19, 27
Buy real estate for speculation:
6, 14, 20, 29
Consult a physician:
3, 6, 14, 19, 27
Cut hair for added thickness:
1, 3, 10, 20
Cut hair to increase growth:
6, 13, 19, 27
Cut hair to retard growth:
4, 14, 24, 29
Entertain:
2, 6, 13, 19, 27
Fishing:
1, 6, 19, 24
Gardening:
3, 14, 20, 27
Hunting:
6, 13, 14, 24
Marry for happiness:
1, 6, 14, 20, 29
Meditation:
3, 13, 19
Mow lawn to retard growth:
1, 2, 5, 11, 20, 24
Permanents, hair coloring:
3, 6, 19
Purchase electronic equipment:
1, 3, 13, 19, 29
Purchase major appliances:
6, 14, 24
See dentist for extractions:
3, 6, 14, 19, 29
See dentist for fillings:
1, 13, 20, 24
Sell home, property, possessions:
3, 14, 20, 27
Sign important papers:
6, 13, 29
Speculation/Gambling:
1, 3, 6, 14, 19, 27
Sports activities:
6, 14, 20, 27
Start a weight loss program:
1, 3, 13, 19, 29
Stop a bad habit:
6, 20, 24, 27
Travel by air:
13, 14, 19, 27
Travel for business:
1, 6, 14, 20, 29
Travel for pleasure:
3, 13, 19, 24, 27

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# TRUE MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

## *By the Readers*

### EARLY MORNING TEA

**By Louis G. Poppe**

My wife Dorothy and I are now retired and living in Blue Springs, Missouri, in a minister's retirement home. During World War II, however, I was a social worker in South Chicago, Illinois.

We lived in an old building which had been condemned in 1935. In the spring of 1945 I awoke one morning and had a strong desire for a cup of hot tea. I carefully got out of bed so I would not wake my wife, but when I opened the kitchen door beside the bed, there she was, sitting in the dark, enjoying a cup of hot tea. Early morning tea was *not* customary with us.

We didn't even have time to wonder why we had both been given a strong urge to have a cup of hot tea before there was a tremendous roar from the bedroom. When we opened the door we were amazed to find that the entire ceiling of the bedroom, about seven feet by seven feet, had collapsed! Lying on each of our pillows, edgewise, was a big piece of plaster, one inch thick and over two feet square. Had we been sleeping, our heads would have been crushed by the plaster.

Our guardian angels, or whatever you wish to call them, had awakened each of us and instilled an urge for hot tea or we both would have exited this world in 1946. Obviously we had much more work to do.

Louis and Dorothy Poppe

**FATE will pay $25.00 for each true experience published. Stories should be less than 300 words and typed double-spaced on one side of the paper (dot-matrix draft mode or script not accepted). They may be mailed to the TME Editor, FATE Magazine, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164-0383. They must be signed by the author and address must be shown. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.**

We're still around after a long career in the ministry. Dorothy Poppe, R.N., has also been a geriatrics and nursing home specialist.—*Blue Springs, MO*

## HURRICANE ALLEN

**By Matthew St. Clair, Jr.**

My excursion into the unknown happened about 4:40 A.M. August 6, 1980, when three friends and I were overrun by one of the worst hurricanes of the century (Hurricane Allen, 190 knot winds and at least 30-foot breaking seas) on a sailing ketch between Cuba and Jamaica.

Our vessel, the *Island Princess*, was knocked over four times by the storm, and, after the last, we were forced to abandon ship. Our raft inflated upside down, and, with us clinging to the bottom, drifted away from the rapidly sinking boat.

A large wave flipped the raft, throwing us into the water. At that point, I became aware of my body three feet to the left, and outlined by a white glow, clawing for the surface. I remember thinking, "Well, I'm still fighting so it must not be time to go."

I was immediately back in my body, and broke the surface next to the raft, which I crawled into. Two nights later we were picked up by a supertanker and put ashore on a small island, Cayman Brac. We are the only ones to ever survive a category five storm in a rubber raft, and four survivors out of over three hundred people who died that night.

## SOMEBODY UP THERE LOVES ME

**By Pauline Alberts**

Because of poor record keeping and stupidity, my husband (complete names and places on file at FATE) had been indicted by the federal government for embezzling $8,226 over a five-and-one-half-year period in which he held the position of treasurer for an organization. The district attorney had upped the figure to $36,000 for punishment and, I'm sure, to cause hardship.

We were devastated. We had no money and were severely in debt from putting four children through college. Our home was heavily mortgaged and we would have to sell it in order to help repay such a large debt, plus whatever the fine would be. We were told the fine could reach $250,000 for each count of embezzling. My husband was accused on 27 counts.

My only salvation night after sleepless night was to lie in bed and pray. One night shortly before the sentencing, I was particularly depressed. Tears streaming down my face, I prayed harder than I had for a long, long time. "Dear God in Heaven, show

me what to do. I need help. I don't know where to turn."

The longer I prayed, the more distraught I became. "God, do you hear me? Please give me a sign so I know you are listening."

Of course, as I looked around the room, there was nothing. I felt God had abandoned me. Although my problems were monumental to me, I knew there were people who needed God's attention more than I did.

I finally drifted off to sleep. During the night, I was awakened by someone calling my name. I lifted myself up, leaned on my elbow and looked toward the sound. There sitting beside my bed in desk chairs were four distinguished looking gentlemen. They were all dressed in black suits, white shirts and dark ties.

I looked at them cautiously. My attention was drawn to the man closest to me. He was very heavy, and he was wiggling in his seat. He was dark complected and had very dark eyes and black, shiny hair. I can remember our eyes meeting as I waited for him to speak, but he said nothing.

The second man appeared to be tall and large but not as heavy as the first man. His hair was light colored. He seemed to be the spokesman for the group.

He said, "We came to help."

"Thank God," I replied, and knew, somehow, that they were deceased members of the Supreme Court.

I continued to look them over. The third man was small. His salt and pepper hair was parted in the middle. He wore round-rimmed glasses, and sat smiling at me.

The last man in the fourth chair did not speak and I did not get a good look at him.

After a few seconds, on a premonition, I said, "Mother, are you here?"

She replied, "Yes, but don't look at me."

The voice came from behind me on my husband's side of the bed. She was here at a critical period of my life and she had brought help. That she loved me during my childhood, I never doubted. She was always there for me. And, now even after death, she is still giving. I felt truly blessed.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because I don't want you to," she chided teasingly.

I had to see her again so I turned my head and looked.

She was young, even younger than when she had died at age 41. She wore a large brimmed hat with flowers around the crown. Her hair was pulled back in a bun and she reminded me of a southern belle. I was pleased with what I saw. I remember thinking that heaven must be wonderful because she looked so happy. That

was all that transpired be-tween us, as my attention turned to my four visitors.

They called me and I turned to face them. The man in the third chair spoke again. He said, "How can we help you when you don't even know your math?"

They chuckled and I replied, "You're right. I don't know my math."

With this, an enormous sense of peace overcame me. I felt it was out of my hands. At last we had help. I lay down and fell into a peaceful sleep.

My husband's sentencing arrived. Although the proceedings were traumatic, he was spared a jail term. The judge did not impose a fine or interest on the amount he had to repay.

I felt my four friends interceded and guided the lawyers and judge in the proceedings. We were not happy with the sum he had to pay back as it was over four times the missing amount, but he did remain free on probation.

My mother again had helped me. She brought the intercessors to me. It is a long, hard struggle back to self-respect and peace but my husband and I are trying and I believe we shall make it.—*Monaca, PA*

## PSYCHIC HEALING

**By Jean Snow**

I was a skeptic, but in 1986, I signed up for a psychic healing class in Tacoma, Washington.

We moved our palms together and apart to feel the energy in them. There was a "puffy," cottony feeling, like when you hold your hand out the car window on a summer day.

The teacher had us walk around the room, palms out, to see if we could feel energy in walls, chairs, a coat or purse. As I skimmed my hands past the knob of the door by which we'd entered the room, I felt a burst of prickly energy! Then I tried the unused emergency door, but felt nothing. Again, I tried the entry door and I felt the same jolt of energy. I was amazed!

We practiced "healing" one another: smoothing the aura field and chakras, our palms six to eight inches from the body. Sometimes we'd feel a goosebump tingling. It was always relaxing.

Jean Snow

At a psychic fair at Evergreen State College, the unusual energy I

felt in someone's feet startled me, and I said, "What a lot of energy!"

"I'm a runner," she said.

Then I felt a "thickness," when I slowly skimmed my hands down the right arm of a teenaged boy, from shoulder to hand. I tried his left arm. Nothing. I went down the right arm again and felt the same sticky, "thick" feeling. I used a combing motion of my fingers, until his energy seemed lighter. Then I noticed the bandage on his palm.

"What happened?" I asked.

"It's a rope burn," he said.

Did I physically heal him? I doubt it. But perhaps I helped get his own energy flowing. Maybe that speeds physical healing. Skeptic? No longer. I've felt the energy!—*Gig Harbor, WA*

## A GOOD LUCK GOLD CHARM

**By Frances Ricard**

In October 1976 my husband died, ten days before my birthday. However, he had had my daughter purchase a gold charm in the shape of a horn, an Italian good luck symbol, as my birthday gift. I wore this constantly.

One day in March of 1982 it had snowed heavily in New York. On my way home from work I stopped off to do some shopping. After parking my car, I carried my packages up to my apartment and after putting the

Frances Ricard

groceries away, I noticed the charm had fallen off the chain on which I wore it. I immediately retraced my steps, checked out my car and then went back and forth over the route I had taken (four or five times in the snow) but to no avail. I was heartsick!

That night I felt "something" being put in the palm of my hand. Half asleep I remember closing my hand around "something" and putting it on the nightstand next to my bed and then fell back asleep.

When I awoke the next morning there was the charm on the nightstand next to my bed.—*Crofton, MD*

### THE BEST FROM OUR PAST

*For over 40 years FATE has been sharing sworn statements of people attesting to a true mystical experience. Each month we will be presenting one of our favorite stories from a past issue. The following article originally appeared in August-September 1951. It is called...*

## UNEXPECTED APPORT

**By Rev. Elvira Colburn**

In August of 1949 my husband and I spent our vacation at a tiny place called Sattley, a few miles from the famous old mining town of Downieville in northern California. We had rented an old log cabin in the forest. It had a wood-burning cook stove. The only thing modern about it was the electric light.

That Sunday before leaving on vacation one of our mediums had given me a message to the effect that while we were away we would receive some astounding physical phenomenon and were told to watch for it. When we arrived at the cabin my husband was taken ill with chills and fever and at three o'clock he went to bed while I lit the fire to heat water for a hot water bottle. The sun was shining brightly into the kitchen as I worked but the bedroom was quite dark since it only had one small window and the large trees outside shaded out the light.

I unpacked our things and hung them on heavy nails as thick as one's finger driven deep into the logs. My husband then said that if he could see to read, it would take his mind off himself, but the light which hung from a single cord in the middle of the room could not throw any light on his book. I had an extension cord with me so I attached it to the fixture but found there was no way to hang it over the bed. I searched everywhere for a nail to drive into the wall over the bed, but to no avail.

I tried to pull some of the heavy nails out of the wall but none were loose. Finally I went outside thinking there might be some rusty nails lying around but none were to be found. Returning to the kitchen I was filling a hot water bottle when I heard something fall near my feet. Looking down, to my astonishment I saw a large, bright, new nail lying in the sunlight.

My first thought was that my husband was playing a trick on me but on going into the bedroom I found him lying in bed covered with blankets. He had not moved.

We examined the nail together. It had never been used, and to make sure I examined the kitchen walls to see if it could have fallen out of there. There was not a single empty nail hole in the entire cabin and besides, it was obvious that the nail had never been used.

This was a clear case of an apport, but it was not until hours afterwards that we remembered the promise given through the medium. I still have the nail and shall always keep it for I shall never forget the sound it made as it fell at my feet, nor my astonishment at seeing it lying there in the sunlight.—*San Diego, CA*

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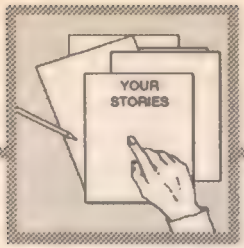


# MY PROOF OF SURVIVAL

*By the Readers*

## THE GHOST

**By Madeline Munch**

My story begins when I was 12 years old on a night in 1935. I was babysitting and doing my homework in Jersey City, New Jersey. The children were sleeping soundly and the house was very quiet.

My relatives were at the hospital visiting my uncle, James Moriarty, who was recovering from a serious illness. I looked up at his portrait and was overwhelmed with sadness. I cried so hard, I could no longer read.

I put away my books and walked to the bedroom. When I put out the light and turned over in bed, I became so terrified I could not move. Someone dressed in a robe with a hood was bending over me. The end of the hood was so close to my face it almost touched. I could not see the eyes, yet I sensed that they were boring into mine.

It seemed like hours before I was able to move my arm toward my six-year-old cousin, Jimmy Moriarty, and sink my nails into his arm. The poor child awoke crying in pain. I was still unable to move and asked him to put on the light. My nightgown and bed were wet with perspiration.

It may seem strange, but the word "ghost" never entered my mind.

I was convinced that someone had gotten into the house. We

Madeline Munch

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searched every room and checked the windows and doors. When I was certain that it was safe, we returned to bed, but I left all of the lights on.

During the early morning hours, I arose from bed and walked toward the bathroom. My family was gathered in the kitchen. I walked up to Aunt Alice, hugged her and offered my sympathy. My mother asked if I had a visitor. Without the least bit of hesitation I said, "No one called." I was not allowed to open the door to anyone. I was very tired, and my mother excused me.

The next morning I was questioned again and give the same honest answer. "We did not have any visitors."

My mother was very angry and threatened punishment if I did not tell the truth. When I insisted that I was telling the truth, she wanted to know who told me about my uncle's death. I looked at everyone in the room, trying to remember who it was. They assured me that it was none of them. It was never discussed in fear that the children might hear the news.

Everyone in the room thought that I opened the door and was too frightened to admit it. I was never a good liar, and yet I could not convince my mother that I was telling the truth. I could not explain how I knew about Uncle Jim. I was so upset that I cried out, "I did not let anyone in; the only one that came was a ghost."

As soon as I saw the look on mother's face, I was sorry for that statement. Talking about a ghost was worse than telling a lie.

I was confined to quarters for two weeks. However, no amount of bribery or punishment could force me to babysit or even visit my aunt again. My fear of that house was so great, it rubbed off on my mother. She did not believe in the unknown, but she did fear for my safety.

Months passed and as Christmas neared I was convinced that it was time for a visit. When the house came into view, I felt great fear, but I was determined to face it. I was happy to find that my calling went unanswered. I lost little time getting out of there. As I walked on, my mind seemed to nag me. It was strange not to find anyone at home. Something within was urging me to go back. I swiftly turned around. As I peered through the windows I could not see the children, but my aunt was lying on the bed. I pounded on the door, but she did not answer.

My sense of something about to happen starts in my stomach, as though I am very frightened without a known cause. It was that feeling that moved me. I

broke a window, and as I climbed through the opening, I could smell gas. I turned off the jets, opened the windows and then went screaming for help.

Much later my cousin told me that he cried and asked God to send me back. I was more than happy for my decision to visit that day. Or, was it my choice?

I spent all of my free time with the family until my aunt was able to set aside her grief and find life worth living. My fear of the ghost was gone, and I never saw him again.

I heard many explanations as I traveled on through life. However, I could never be convinced, that the apparition was my Uncle who returned for a last look. We had a very close relationship. He would not have frightened me away.

More than likely, he was the one who got me to forget my fear and return.

I have had many experiences with the unknown and the other side. The only change that I can see in 50 years is less pressure to bury these happenings within. We are now allowed to discuss the unknown without fear of persecution.—*Cape Coral, FL*

## A FRIEND FOREVER

**By Lois A. Walling**

In January 1953, my best friend Betty Lou Sink died suddenly from a brain tumor at age 26, leaving two small boys and a young grieving husband.

At that time I was the tender age of 16, a product of a broken home. Being befriended by Betty Lou and her family lifted my heart from its loneliness. She became my idol, my closest friend, my counselor.

The evening she died while attending her cousin's basketball game in Keyport, New Jersey, I went into immediate denial, angry with anyone who talked about it. She had eased a lot of my hurt, and I thought her very wise. I happily helped her in any way I could. I couldn't let go.

I mourned for two years, talking to her secretly. I married at

Lois A. Walling

18, and when difficulties arose, I mourned for her guidance.

One night as I sat alone in my living room, missing and needing her, I felt her presence. I hesitated and sat still as stone as she stood before me, anger on her face. The

last thing I'd ever want to do was make Betty Lou mad at me. Seeing my puzzlement, she said I was holding her back from total peace. I cried, "But I love you and need you."

Her face softened to the sweetness I remembered, as she explained she would always love me and watch over me. But I must free her by letting go of all the grief that held her back. That she was happy and at peace except for that. She faded before my eyes as she assured me that with faith I'd get through my mission on earth just fine, and I'd see her again when my mission ended.

I sat awhile after she was gone and realized all my held in grief was gone too, and we were both free at last.

I knew I'd have my friend forever.—*Salina, UT*

## VITAL CONNECTIONS

**By Ardella Van Schoick**

There was nothing visibly different about our bake shop (Ardella's Dutch Ovens) in Ocean City, New Jersey. We made everything from natural ingredients and used no mixes or short cuts. It was a small family enterprise reflecting my cultural heritage in Pennsylvania.

Summertime brought greatly increased demand for sticky cinnamon buns, breads and pies. This necessitated long hours of intense production on my part. So, when I was rolling out pie dough, and I first heard my mother saying, "Call Harry!" (my father), I attributed it to overtiredness and imagination. My mother had died in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in May of 1947. Pop was living with my sister and her two children in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at that time in July of 1967.

I got a drink of cold water, then returned to my pie dough.

Again I distinctly heard my mother say, in her no-nonsense tone, "Call Harry!" No statement—an order. I obediently

Ardella Van Schoick

went to the phone and called Harry.

The phone rang and rang. However, knowing from experience my mother's psychic insights while she was living, I remained on the line. About 20 rings later, my father picked up the phone. "Hello!"

"Pop, this is Ardella..."

I was interrupted by his, "Wait a minute. There's something on fire in the kitchen." I waited anxious minutes until his return. Pop was in his late 70s and often forgot things.

After extinguishing the flames, Pop returned to tell me what had happened. "I was going to fry myself some potatoes. I got the iron skillet and put grease in it, when somebody came to the front door. I went to answer it. It was only a salesman. I guess I forgot what I was doing in the kitchen and sat down and fell asleep. The phone woke me."

He continued, "When I got out in the kitchen, the flames were leaping up out of the pan, but there was nothing around them. There's no damage done except the burned pan."

I spoke to him for several more minutes about the family and generalities, not allowing him to know what I was thinking. As I returned to my work, I couldn't help marveling to myself, "Twenty years—and she's still watching out for him!"

If there was ever any doubt in my mind about life after death, this incident wiped it from existence.—*Neptune, New Jersey*

## JOURNEY OF LIGHTS

**By Andrea C. Thompson**

As early as October of 1988, my father-in-law, Clarence Thompson, began seeing blue lights encircling his bed at night. He told us that he had a vision of his father, Wellington J. Thompson, as a young man; also he had seen his wife, Jessie S. Thompson, who is my husband's (Clive Thompson's) mother. He related to us his end was close at hand. We would respond by telling him he was in good health and had many more years.

During the Christmas holidays he began to feel ill, but he was busy with seasonal preparations, which tended to keep him occupied. Christmas Day arrived and everyone, including Dad, was excited. All were busy opening presents, sharing gifts, and snacking on holiday goodies. We took photos of everyone enjoying

Andrea C. Thompson

the day. Dad's mood seemed to brighten.

The first of the year came and went; Dad's health began to deteriorate even more. He refused to

eat and lost weight. He remained, for longer periods of time, in his room. His favorite T.V. programs went unwatched. He insisted the blue lights were not only around his bed, but were all over the room.

We were due to move out of our rented house in San Bernardino, California, into a permanent family dwelling in August.

My husband and I found a house in April and plans were in the works to purchase it. We told Dad about it. He was looking for the time when he could again sit outside in a garden. He was so excited that he wanted to see it.

In early May of 1989, we took Dad to visit his new home. He was pleased, chose his bedroom and began making verbal arrangements as to how he would fix his new room. We were glad that he had something to occupy his mind.

Toward the end of the week Dad's health took a severe turn for the worse. He hardly ate anything, refused to come out of his room, bathe, shave or change his clothes. On the following Thursday, my husband helped Dad take a bath and shave.

Early Friday morning my husband went to check on his father and found that the old gentleman had died in his sleep.

The film from the past Christmas had been recovered after being lost during the move. The film was developed. We saw Dad's blue lights and gold ones too, as if coming from an unseen source. They were shooting through him as he sat on the couch Christmas morning.

Next to him was a kneeling apparition of my husband's mother, who had passed into the spirit world several years earlier. She had her arm around Dad, as if she were giving him a hug. Dad had, indeed, gone home to Mom on his journey of lights.—*San Bernardino, CA*

## SAM

**By Helenjay Lewis**

Sam Suberlenski always looked dirty. You didn't dare get down wind of him because he smelled. He lived in a tiny shrub-and tree-covered house across the street and drove a red pick-up truck. Sam was about 68 years old. The neighbors referred to him as the

Helenjay Lewis

# THE PRAYER SYSTEM THAT NEVER FAILS

Almost all of us at some time or another have prayed to God when in need – only to later feel disappointed that our prayers were unanswered. Either God isn't there or He is simply too busy to attend to our needs – this is the impression we are left with. Only *desperation* drives us to prayer: when all else has failed and we are at the end of our tether – only then do most of us turn to prayer; and then we pray with that sinking feeling that our supplication will not be heard.

Also at the back of our minds is the lingering impression that prayers were only answered in Jesus' time, a time when miracles were commonplace. All the great miraculous events recorded in the Bible happened so long ago – in a time when man seemed closer to God, life was far simpler, and God's prophets walked amongst us.

BUT THE REAL REASON WHY OUR PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED IS THAT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY. THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT *OUR PRAYERS NEVER REACHED GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE.*

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YOU WILL FEEL DEEP IN YOUR HEART ONCE YOU READ THIS BOOK THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE *YOU KNOW* THAT YOUR PRAYERS WILL BE HEARD AND ANSWERED!

This book is called 'THE PRAYER SYSTEM THAT NEVER FAILS' precisely because it contains *that.* WITHIN ITS PAGES ARE THE SECRETS OF A LIFE FILLED WITH BLESSEDNESS AND GOOD FORTUNE . . . A LIFE *FREE* OF SORROW AND SUFFERING!

Nor is this a book of rituals or impossible-to-follow instructions. It shows how to pray *anywhere* and *any time*, and most importantly of all: HOW YOU CAN BE TOTALLY ASSURED OF AN ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS.

This book can be used by persons of *all* faiths. The principles in it are *universal* and apply just as readily to Muslims, Hindus and Jews as they do to Christians.

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But why should anyone turn to prayer at all, especially if they are not 'religious'? It is important to distinguish between the prayer of the 'religious' and the prayer of the average person *who seeks the solution to a pressing problem.* It is ironic that the 'religious' person can pray all his life and *never* receive an answer to his prayers. The fact is that he is praying the wrong way, that is the usual way. But the person who hasn't seen the inside of a church or mosque for ten years *will obtain a definite, positive result* if he prays in the manner described in this book.

And what can one pray *for?* WHATEVER YOUR NEED YOU CAN PRAY FOR IT – AND WITH THIS BOOK'S SYSTEM YOU CAN FEEL ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF A POSITIVE ANSWER FROM GOD! Because God *responds to only one kind of prayer* – as Dr Lightfoot demonstrates from the Bible and his own and the personal experiences of others' – and *THAT KIND OF PRAYER HE ALWAYS ANSWERS!*

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But the most miraculous of all are the modern duplications of what Jesus made happen 2000 years ago: the walking of the lame, sight restored to the blind, etc.

THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO ILLNESS OR DISABILITY THAT CAN NOT RESPOND TO THE SCIENTIFIC PRAYER SYSTEM OF JESUS. In some cases where there is no hope *only prayer can effect relief* . . . and sometimes a TOTAL CURE. Advertising restrictions prevent us from describing prayer's efficacy in this way, but the book explains all. NOBODY WITH A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM SHOULD, IN OUR VIEW, OVERLOOK THE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY PRAYER, as revealed in this book.

So we urge you to reconsider the value of prayer – in the light of this book's revelations. Prayer, as originally revealed in the Bible, DOES work, but *only* for those who understand the mystery behind Jesus' parables. The mystery is de-mystified in plain, direct English in this book. The secrets disguised by Jesus' sayings are revealed to unfold the greatest spiritual and material potential for every man, woman and child. NOTHING IS UNATTAINABLE THROUGH THE MIGHTY POWER OF THIS PRAYER SYSTEM.

This book explains step by step the vital ingredients required for successful prayer, showing when and how to pray, how to receive faith; and the ways in which God will answer you. The book's instructions culminate in one page of Nine Master Secrets which reveal at a glance everything you need to know in order to always get your prayers answered. But there is *more:* In addition to 'THE PRAYER SYSTEM THAT NEVER FAILS' this book also contains the entire text of Dr Lightfoot's first work 'THE POWER STRUGGLE' which is a striking account of the age-old conflict between good and evil, and how this cosmic struggle is manifesting itself on planet Earth today.

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"Mad Russian," but I saw him as delightful.

Wild birds swarmed around him whenever he was outdoors, in spite of the numerous cats who purred around his legs, and children loved him too. My curiosity about the man arose.

I baked an apple pie, presented it to him, and introduced myself. No wonder the kids liked him! He was an intelligent and witty conversationalist. I spent many hours talking with him—from a distance.

Every day, he went somewhere in his truck, returning around noon. One day, he did not return. Three days sped by. I inquired around the neighborhood and discovered he was in the hospital, which I called. The operator rang Sam's room, and he answered. He expressed his pleasure about my concern, assuring me he was fine after experiencing a heart attack, and would be home in two days, on Friday, ending with, "I'm tired," and hung up. I took no offense. Sam was my friend.

Friday morning, I was sipping my coffee and sleepily gazed out my window, and saw Sam's truck parked across the street. I dashed out, calling, "Sam, Sam!" The front door opened. A neatly dressed Sam stepped out.

"Oh, Sam, I'm so happy to see you!" Then I looked again. "Who are you?" I gasped, for he somehow looked different.

"I'm Sam's twin brother," he whispered. "Sam died at 3:00 o'clock this morning."

Devastated, I ran home, grieving, shocked, repeating over and over again, "Oh, Sam, you could have said good-bye."

I seemed drawn to my front window, but I could not look at Sam's house. I just couldn't!

Three nights later I fell asleep exhausted. I dreamed about a lovely, green park, with many people enjoying a picnic. Suddenly, the crowds parted, and I recognized Sam coming toward me. He was wearing the softest of smiles, and he was sparkingly clean.

"Can I have a hug?" he asked gently. "I came to say goodbye. Be happy for me."

I awoke suddenly, and throwing on my robe, I ran, elated, bubbling with indescribable happiness, to look out of my front window. I couldn't wait to look across the street at Sam's house!

"You came, Sam!" I wanted to yell. "You came and said goodbye! Thank you."

How could I not know my dream was real? The feeling of contentment and consuming joy, when I think of Sam, is with me still.

"Be happy for me," he said.

What a gift!—*Sacramento, CA*

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## THE BEST FROM OUR PAST

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### SPIRIT REMEDY

**By Gertrude L. Moore**

In 1920 I worked in a wholesale bakery. My hours were from 2 P.M. until the work was finished.

One Thursday night the work was light and I got home about 11 P.M. I was not sleepy but since Fridays were always hard, I went to bed at once. As I lay there in the dark I saw on the ceiling an odd light like a small mirror being flashed. As I watched the light grew bright and big. Then it dimmed and in its place appeared a sort of fog that extended from the floor to the ceiling.

It seemed as if someone were drawing an outline in the fog. The outline grew until I saw my mother's image. My mother had died when I was a child. She seemed to step from the fog and to walk slowly toward my bed. As she stood smiling down at me she held out her hand. I saw she was holding a small bottle with a label on which, written plainly, were the words "Sweet Oil." Then Mother seeemed to move back-

ward into the fog and vanished.

On Friday morning as I tried to go through the daily household routine I could think of nothing but the vision I had seen. Glancing at the clock, I was startled to see that I had less than an hour to get to work. I hurriedly cooked a piece of fish and as I swallowed a forkful of it I choked on a bone which I had not noticed. There I was, all alone, choking, when I saw a bottle on the kitchen shelf. It had a label on which was written "Sweet Oil."

Oil of any kind gags me but I pulled the cork from the bottle and poured the oil down my throat. I retched, the bone turned in my throat and I was able to lift it out. I was very shaken by this experience. My hands shook so badly that I could not control them. I lay down on the couch and finally, as the reason for my vision became clear to me, I had a feeling of peace.

The part many may find difficult to believe is that I never was able to learn where the bottle of sweet oil came from. I never had bought any in my life, and none of the persons who had been to my home had purchased any. However, the words "Sweet Oil" on the label were written in a hand which was identical with Mother's handwriting in the family Bible, where she had listed the family birth and death records.—*Springfield, MA*

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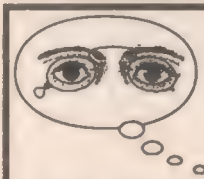

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# READER OF THE MONTH

**Carol Myers Martin**
**R.1 B. 238**
**Appomattox VA 24522**

I'm Carol Myers Martin. I am a housewife and writer. I was born in McDowell County, West Virginia, a half-century-plus ago and I have spent most of my life in Appomattox County, Virginia.

I live on the farm my parents bought in 1941 with my husband of 34 years and our one son.

I have always had a deep interest in anything having to do with the real of the psychic, parapsychology and accounts of travelers from other planets. I believe in reincarnation; it just seemed to "click," to make perfect sense to me from the moment I learned what the word meant.

I dislike prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness in all forms.

I have subscribed to FATE for over 20 years. I find it enjoyable, straightforward and informative. I look forward to its arrival every month. When it comes I usually devour it from cover to cover before the day is over.

The picture shows me with my beloved Siamese, Wing-Wong, on his favorite perch—my left shoulder.

∞

Reader of the Month submissions should be under 250 words and typed. Tell us about yourself, what people should know about you (likes, dislikes, etc.), why you like FATE and how FATE has affected you. **You *must* include your photo and give us permission to publish your name and address.** Mail to FATE Reader of the Month, P.O. Box 64383 St. Paul MN 55164-0383. Include a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. After publication FATE pays $10.00 to each *published* Reader of the Month.

1 Aches and Pains (White Willow)

2 Prostate (Saw Palmetto Berry)

3 Weightloss (Chickweed)

4 Maintain Healthy Eyes (Eyebright Herb)

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6 Headaches (Chamomile Flower)

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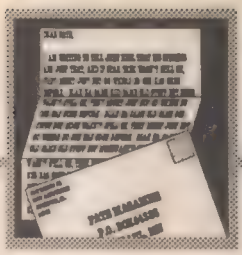

*By the Readers*

## LETTER OF THE MONTH

Each month, FATE editors choose an especially noteworthy letter to share with our readers. The writer of the letter receives $10.00 for his/her fine efforts.

Congratulations on your 500th issue, a milestone in the life of any publication, certainly for such a specialized magazine. The base-line reason why FATE has published 500 issues while other "occult" periodicals have folded after a year or two is because readers continue to buy FATE.

In the years I have read FATE, I have found very few answers in its pages. However, I have discovered illuminating insights, theories and visions. The articles in FATE have helped to keep alive my belief that there is magic in the universe and that we are part of that magic.

There are many people who fear questions because questions upset their ordered lives. These are the people who believe there is no magic, that all we see is all there is, and that their lives can be defined by the beliefs and dogma of others. How grey their world is, how devoid of mystery, possibility and potentiality.

These are the people who would assert that all we need to survive are food, water and authority—the body survives, but the spirit withers. We need mystery and magic so we may dream and grow, and we need to be exposed to insights and visions that sear our souls. More than anything else, we need to be challenged by questions we cannot answer.

Keep asking questions, and good luck with the next 500.—*Ralph E. Vaughan, Chula Vista, CA*

## LIGHTNING

My husband and I live about 20 miles from Okeefeenokee

*continued on page 112*

**These columns of FATE are set aside each month for your comments. Send your neatly typed opinion of articles, columns, and reports of unusual occurrences to *Report From the Readers*, FATE Magazine, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164-0383.**

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# BOOK REVIEWS

## REVELATIONS

*By Jacques Vallee*

Ballantine Books, New York
Hardcover, 1991, 273 pgs., $20.00

Dr. Jacques Vallee, whose ufological mentor was the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, one-time USAF astronomy/UFO consultant and later founder of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), broke ranks with conventional ufologists years ago. In *Revelations*, the third book in his alien contact trilogy (earlier ones are *Dimensions* and *Confrontation*), he takes a hard-nosed look at a number of foreign UFO reports as well as several American cases including the long-running MJ-12 caper with its claims of crashed saucers and captured aliens both dead and alive.

"Who takes out the garbage?" was Vallee's immediate question of an informant who claimed an alien/human base "as large as Manhattan" is located under the Nevada desert.

Noting that such a base would not only generate enormous amounts of trash that would have to be somehow disposed of, Vallee also pointed out that it would need vast quanitites of food, water and electricity and would generate enough heat to easily register on infrared sensors of earth-orbiting satellites. Such sensors are not only on military satellites but on ones whose information is commercially available to anyone who wished to buy it. In short, writes Vallee, there is no way that such a hidden base can remain truly hidden.

This iconoclastic (and not infrequently abrasive) approach to many of the beliefs currently prevalent in the UFO field is not winning Vallee many friends within American UFO organizations these days. Not surprisingly, he doesn't care, preferring to go his own way as he did in the case of alleged alien landings in Voronezh.

When the news stories of alien giants in the Voronezh park hit the papers here, American ufologists snorted and dismissed the reports on the basis of: (1) contradictory press accounts, and, (2) the fact that the aliens reported in

the USSR (tall and bulky, with small heads) did not fit the accepted American view of aliens (short and thin with big heads). Vallee promptly went to the USSR, met with Soviet scientists, reviewed witness testimony and concluded that "there cannot be any doubt" of the physical reality of the reported sightings. Admittedly, trips to the USSR are expensive, but don't forget that American ufology recently spent $16,000 in an inconclusive at-tempt to prove the MJ-12 papers are real.

It is Vallee's belief that MJ-12 is a hoax "designed and executed by a rogue group within the intelligence community..." He notes that, unlike Watergate's Deep Throat, "the MJ-12 source operates as a manipulator of a contrived disinformation leak rather than as a real whistleblower [or a] deeply concerned person who has decided to expose a genuine scandal once and for all."

Ufologists, he says, ignore the fact "that the anonymity of such birds as Condor, Falcon and the others is a joke, since the first people to know their identity would naturally be their own employers in Washington if they were real intelligence officers."

His reasoned disbelief in such scenarios as "the aliens are among us and the government knows it and is conspiring with them," permeates his book. So does his conclusion that most American ufologists, by their naivete, have allowed themselves to be manipulated by forces intent on hiding the real meaning of the UFO mystery. "...Some of the most remarkable sightings" he says "are actually complex hoaxes that have been carefully engineered for our benefit. The witnesses are merely the victims and the instruments rather than the authors of the hoax."

Such manipulation, in his view, is not peculiar to the American UFO scene. This is discussed in his chapters on foreign cases like the 1979 Pontoise abduction, the Bentwaters affair, and the UMMO deception, which has endured for some 30 years.

Yet if he is right about both sightings and witnesses being manipulated by a covert government UFO disinformation operation, what are we to make of the fact that ex-members of the U.S. intelligence community (and here I am talking about verifiably high level people, not lowly military enlisted men who peddle wild and unsubstantiated claims) have detailed and documented all manner of CIA/NSA covert operations except flying saucer schemes? If such schemes exist, as Vallee believes they do, why haven't they also been revealed?

There are other aspects of *Revelations* I would question, but my main concern is that

Vallee's message may be largely ignored by those who need it most. There is a saying that "you will catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." Vallee has not sugar-coated his criticism and his oft-abrasive attitude will doubtless cause ego-wounded ufologists to largely ignore what he has to say—which would be a pity, for beneath the vinegar is a good red meat to chew on.—*George W. Earley*

## OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

**FENG SHUI**
**The Chinese Art of Designing a Harmonious Environment**
*By Derek Walters*
A Fireside Book
Simon & Schuster Inc., New York
Softcover, 1988, 112 pgs., $13.95

For harmonious living, your bed should not be visible from the bedroom door. Your front sidewalk should be curved to avoid a "secret arrow" directed at the entrance. Trees in back of the house are auspicious, but a large tree in front is bad.

These and many, many other details of locating and arranging your landscape, site, home, workplace, and garden are outlined in this illustrated book. As the introduction says, "A complex blend of sound commonsense, fine aesthetics, and mystical philosophy, *Feng Shui* is a traditional Chinese technique which aims to ensure that all things are in harmony with their surroundings." Much depends upon the congruous flow of the *ch'i* force.

Favorable locations are determined by the configurations of hills (dragons and tigers) and waterways (water dragons). Ideally, a building should face south. Ideally, there should be a semicircular pool of water in front of the house.

The book also considers house numbers, each room of the house in turn, color, mirrors (one of the most common remedies for adverse *Feng Shui* situations), the associations of the trigrams of the *I Ching* with work activities, miniature landscapes, and flower arranging. No detail is omitted.

In the final chapter, the *Lo P'an* is described. This is the art of designing your environment in harmony with your horoscope, the *I Ching*, the five elements, and other aspects of Chinese esoterica, all related to a circular diagram called the "Heaven Plate," which is used in conjunction with the "Earth Plate" for the purpose of *Feng Shui* divinations. A workbook format allows you to determine details for yourself as an individual, and examples are given.

It is doubtful whether anyone could ever find a home meeting

all the specifications outlined in this book, and even those wealthy enough to have every last detail made to order would have some practical difficulties. Nevertheless, for those who live in an apartment as well as those planning to buy a home, it is plain that a comfortable, secure, and harmonious environment that feels good to live in (i.e., has "good vibes") would certainly be enhanced by paying attention to the principles of *Feng Shui.*—*Eric Anpin*

**HOLY MADNESS**
**The Shock Tactics and Radical Teachings of Crazy-Wise Adepts, Holy Fools, and Rascal Gurus**
*By Georg Feuerstein*
Paragon House, New York
Hardcover, 1991, 320 pgs., $24.95

This is a wide-ranging collection of profiles of people who, in various unusual ways, teach or witness to their own vision of religious truth. Here are prophets and gurus, fools and tricksters, mad men and women, yet holy people in the sense that their actions and words express their faith. Author Feuerstein recounts their individual stories in a rapid-fire style, piling one experience upon another in a way that almost confounds the reader, much the way a crazy-wise adept might confound and confuse a student with an overload of information or sensations.

In their search for enlightenment, holy fools (and those designated by other names) often exhibit unusual behavior. They may go without nourishment for long periods of time, babble incomprehensively, sink into comatose states or dance or gyrate feverishly, berate and browbeat their followers, go about naked and indulge in various antisocial actions. These aberrations may be indicative of intense emotional states connected with enlightenment, or may be deliberately designed to shock and gain the attention of others in order to stimulate their faith. Feuerstein considers these possibilities, and discusses the dangers inherent in adopting such philosophies.

There is much of interest in *Holy Madness,* and it summarizes the whole topic in a very thorough manner (maybe too thorough). There is an extensive note section at the end, in which the author interprets some of the information presented without analysis. It has a particularly lurid dust jacket, perhaps intended as an illustration of the shock tactics used so effectively by its subjects.—*Constance Hill*

**MISSION TO MILLBORO**
*By Marge Rieder*
Authors Unlimited
3324 Barham Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90068
Softcover, 1991, 275 pgs., $14.95

It has been more or less established that, when hypnosis is used for such things as the recall of UFO contacts and past life regression, the subject in a hypnotic state will try to respond to the hypnotist's suggestions in a creative and satisfying way, even if it means creating an elaborate fantasy that calls upon the powers of the subconscious mind to recall obscure and forgotten data. It has also been fairly well established that, after being brought out of hypnosis, the subject will actually remember the fantasy as if it were real.

Now imagine a room full of more than a dozen people under hypnosis who have all become enthused about the idea of having led past lives in the same locale.

The result is an elaborate tale of illicit love, scandal, escaped slaves, war, murder, and intrigue. It is a story that features an Indian village in the middle of the Shenandoah Valley in Civil War Virginia (with the Indians acting as scouts for both sides in the war), wooden dog tags for Confederate cavalrymen, a peculiar local celebration of Guy Fawkes day, a training regime for Texas Rangers that seems to have come right out of a Western movie, and many other improbabilities that are not altogether inconceivable but which seem highly unlikely.

Verification? Well, that consists of traveling to the town in question, seeing an old building or a feature of the terrain, and saying, "Hey, I remember *that!*" Double verification is provided when someone else in the party says, "Wow! So do I!"

We begin to see why *Mission to Millboro* was produced by a vanity publisher.

But it isn't that simple. To begin with, the original participant, without having heard of the town before, pronounced "Mill-boro" in a distinctive fashion that later turned out to be the way it is actually pronounced by the natives. Aside from that, the author plainly states that she isn't trying to prove reincarnation. Although she seems to believe in the reality of the information "recalled" by her subjects, she says that she is merely recording an interesting psychological phenomenon. The reader is left to ponder how much of the uncovered material is past life recall, how much is the result of unconscious telepathic communication among the participants, how much was communicated verbally outside the hypnotist's office, and how much just came up during what amounted to group brainstorming sessions under hypnosis.—*David Godwin*

**MICHIGAN PREHISTORY MYSTERIES II**
By Betty Sodders
Avery Color Studios, Star Route, Box 275, AuTrain MI 49868
Softcover, 1991, 262 pages, $10.95

Betty Sodders has done it again with a sequel to her intriguing *Michigan Prehistory Mysteries*. Like its predecessor, Volume II is a collection of little known archaeological enigmas found in her home state. Many have never been described in book form before.

Foremost among those mysteries are the stone heads, some weighing several tons, carved into a cliffside at AuTrain, in the Upper Peninsula, or discovered near Merriweather. The sculpted portraits predate the earliest settlers' arrival by unguessed centuries, yet the local Indians never worked in stone on such a large scale, and in fact denied any connection with the statues. Sodders outlines the theories associated with their origins and includes clear photographs of the best examples. She also provides updates on the Newberry Stone, first described in her earlier volume. It was a tablet of pinkish clay incised with an unknown script that bore a close remembblence to Cryto-Minoan, a written language that flourished around 200 B.C. New information in Volume II affirms the tablets' authenticity, particularly by citing the relationship of some of its characters to the Mobilian trade language spoken by the Chinook Indians of the Pacific Coast. Difficult as it may be for us to accept, the Newberry Stone is solid, physical proof that our shores were visited by prehistoric searfarers from Europe before the Trojan War.

There are other northern anomalies such as the high-prowed vessels reminiscent of Viking dragon ships, etched into boulder at Peresborough Petroglyph Park in Canada, and Michigan's Huron Mountain dolmen. It is a boulder on three smaller stones like those found in megalithic Europe. If real, this may provide evidence that the oceans were used as highways for ancient man.

The chapter on Analytical Technology was tedious and inappropriate, since little attempt was made to date those sites and artifacts. Renewed discussion of the *Soper Frauds*—an apparently bogus collection fo ancient plates protraying bliblical scenes allegedly manufactured by swindlers in Michigan around 1870—does nothing to improve their crediblity. Whatever faults Voume II may have are easily overlooked for the treasures that Sodders presents about the ancient past.—*Frank Joseph*

∞

*continued from page 103*

Swamp, home of Pogo and other swamp creatures.

I have learned from experience that when clouds gather over the swamp we get rain at our house. When this happened in late June of 1985, I went to finish a few things in the garden with my shovel and rake.

As I dug, a curious thing began to happen. Something began to rise from the ground. I thought it was smoke, but when I put my hand in it, there was no heat to it and it was not like smoke. I looked around to see if fog was settling in or coming up from the ground anywhere else, but it was not fog. The hole was boiling with this stuff. It stayed in the hole and did not rise like fog or smoke would. The furious movement of it unnerved me and I tried to compare it with something I knew.

Something clicked in my brain and I quickly moved away. From a distance of ten feet I watched the stuff boiling just above the ground. Then a bolt of lightning shot down from the sky, and the mass of boiling fury from the hole joined with the bolt with a loud noise.

I no longer work in the garden when I know a storm is coming. There are too many things I know too little about, and I have a healthy respect for the unknown. I would like to hear from other people who have had similar experiences.—*Mrs. Bob Arnold, Hoboken, GA*

*Ed. note: As a youngster, I saw some unbelievable lightning displays on our farm in North Dakota. I have heard the old timers up there tell some strange tales about ball lightning which came into the barn through open windows and doors, resulting in freak accidents. We would be interested in hearing about readers' strange experiences with lightning.*

## GHOST BUSTING

I enjoyed reading Petronelle Cook's article "How to Get Rid of Your Ghost" (October 1991 FATE) more than any material on this subject I have encountered in quite a while. The author is of the opinion that ghosts are residual energies, but I am more inclined to believe that this psychic effluvia could be more accurately described as a matrix, essence, or fluid, which draws the energy for its manifestation from the percipient(s) as correctly surmised by Ms. Cook.

For analogy, let us imagine a reel of film which requires a projector and energy (in this case electricity) for its contents to become fully displayed.

I would like to offer a suggestion of my own for readers who

might wish to "break" a haunting. If you have wallpaper in your home, get rid of it! I have lived in several haunted rooms. All had wallpaper. I once had a room with painted walls where manifestations commenced as soon as I covered a door with "wood tone" wallpaper. Perhaps it is not the paper per se which triggers the phenomena but its adhesive backing?—*Richard Martin, New York, NY*

## MORE ON GULF BREEZE

Regarding Jerome Clark's *UFO Reporter*, I wish to comment on his Gulf Breeze story. There has been, as Mr. Clark states, "tens of thousands of words..." written about Mr. Walters' photos and story.

Let me assure you and your readership that the scales have *not* tipped in the skeptics' favor. It is unfortunate that anyone can write anything about a person or subject, get it printed and therefore it's true.

I will not bore you with all the details but it has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the model was constructed of paper from a house plan drawn a year after Ed took his photos.

A certain debunker from the Northeastern United States is still trying to get the folks who had Ed draw the plans to change their story.

The story told by a "young accomplice" is so full of holes that I'm surprised any media would tell his story. For example, in his initial recorded interview by the mayor of Gulf Breeze and others, this accomplice did not know that one of Ed's (the most spectacular) photos was taken with the craft hovering over a road. This is known as the "road shot" (photo 19). Two weeks later, however, when interviewed by a national TV crew, he knew in minute detail how the photo was taken.

I suppose the real question is, "If Ed faked his photos, what are all these other folks seeing?" They describe what they see as "like Ed's pictures." People like local ministers, school teachers, city council members and the county coroner. No, the Gulf Breeze UFO story is not settled.

As a matter of fact, since the first of the year (1991) there have been over 100 sightings by a group of MUFON investigators, including myself.—*Gary Watson, Pensacola MUFON Chief Investigator, Pensacola, FL.*

*Ed. note: Jerome Clark agrees that the other sightings are indeed interesting and it is not necessary to make a judgment on the Walters' case. The Ed Walters' incident and the other Gulf Breeze UFO sightings are separate considerations.*

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## QUITS PSICOPS

I found it gratifying to find my letter in the August 1990 issue of FATE. This letter is late because I rely on my grandmother to send me her issues when she is finished.

In any case, during the period between when I wrote my letter about the *Skeptical Inquirer* and FATE (and how they always seem to bicker), I had to make a few financial choices and one of them was to cancel my subscription to the *Skeptical Inquirer*.

It got to the point where I really couldn't read what they printed. It was either too technical or too ridiculous and although many of their articles are well written, it's just not worth $6.25 an issue. That price would equal three FATE issues, and I'd be getting a much fairer viewpoint.

So, please continue to dispute the "skeptics" and "believers" alike. In the last couple of years I've watched your magazine grow and I like what I see. You just present the facts and I can make up my own mind about the answers.

P.S. I still think Uri Geller is a fake, but hey, if he can make millions doing it, more power to him. It may not be a special power, but I sure as heck wish I had it!—*Joseph Olszewski, Jr.,*

*continued on page 125*

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*continued from page 114*
*Philadelphia, PA*

**JUNK MAIL**

I couldn't resist writing to tell you how much I enjoyed *Psychic Frontiers* by Loyd Auerbach in the October 1991 issue of FATE.

You see, the same thing has been happening to me. I have been deluged by psychic junk mail by the same people he listed in the article, and saying the same things.

I too sent for a horoscope done by a very famous lady astrologer, which turned out to be a computer printout. While I was waiting for it to arrive, I was receiving more ads from her hawking others' wares. I became very disgusted and decided she was just a money grubber, using her reputation to pull in all the money she could by every means.

My name got on a list which was passed around and I started hearing from others. Most of the mail which I received would end up in the trash can. When this happened, I would receive follow-up letters asking why I didn't reply the first time and offering me a second chance. These wound up in the trash can, too.

If this happened to Mr. Auerbach and me, it must be happening to a lot of other people. The solution is simple: Toss them all.—*Barbara Nielsen, Virginia Beach, VA*

Bravo! Loyd Auerbach said it all in his article "Psychic Junk Mail" in the October issue. I had to chuckle at all the sincerity gushing from the opening lines of the letters.

I've received my fair share of the same letters and they all end up in the recycling bin. Come on now, who is going to believe that Madame X woke up this morning and had a strong impression of so and so? The strong impression is coming from that mailing list they bought that has your name on it.

Gosh. I hope I'm not too late. I woke up this morning and had a strong impression of all the people sending in their $19.95 and getting ripped off. Seems like life is out of control.

It's disheartening for sincere psychics to see this type of hype being laid on the unsuspecting public. It's usually people that are having serious problems that fall for these mail order scams and spend money they can ill afford. When they do have the good fortune to meet a true psychic, they tend to mistrust that person's abilities to reveal valid information. All because of greedy con artists

giving a bad rap. I hope Loyd's article will serve as a warning. —*Mary Ellen Mizuta, Clinical Hypnotherapist, Psychic Practitioner, Seattle, WA*

### CAN YOU HELP THESE FATE READERS?

I am searching for additional information on the Shaver Mystery and the Inner Earth theory. Also, does anyone have a copy of *Amazing Stories* which Palmer and Shaver put out as a special issue dealing with the Shaver Mystery?—*David Stinson, 4455 Mixedwood Dr., Ladson SC 29456*

For a book in progress, I am looking for true Vermont ghost stories, preferably repetitive events and/or multiple witnesses. No drama is required. Anonymity or notoriety will be the source's choice. Would readers with Vermont experiences or leads to them please send me a brief description of the events and an address/phone number where I can contact them for an interview. *M.L. Cook, PO Box 64883, Burlington VT 05406-4883*

I have been reading your magazine for eight months now. It is a magazine which has shown me many new things and answered many questions that I have had for a while. The study of the unknown has mystified many for centuries and I myself am so interested that I wish to make it my career.

Unfortunately, I am finding it difficult to get straightforward information on what course of study I should take to become a researcher. I am also very interested in the field of physics. Can anyone help me?

Please send me information on what courses I should take in college to prepare myself for this field (studying UFOs, psychic abilities, paranormal, supernatural and other such related topics) and any colleges with these courses. Also, I think that many other readers would be interested.

Thank you for these many months of enjoyable reading.—*Eric Iannuccilli, 41 Mauran St., Cranston RI 02910*

I need help in locating books written by Steward E. White in the 1920 to 1948 era. I am particularly interested in the Betty Books, published from 1937 to 1948.—*Lionel Miller, 9 Heather Circle, Port Angeles WA 98362*

I would like to correspond with people who have met vampires and, if possible, I would like to correspond with vampires also.

This is for private correspondence, and all information will

be kept confidential.—*Alexander Lucard, 2521 Carbonton Rd., Sanford NC 27330*

I would like to learn more about the mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, having read many scholastic works on them, and the Jesus Christ who was never mentioned in the New Testament. —*Jack Grimes, PO Box 17408, Euclid OH 44117-7408*

I am currently doing research for a book and a non-profit public access television show based on paranormal experiences, hauntings, and psychic skills of people and places within the Chicagoland and northern Illinois areas. Anyone interested in sharing their positive or negative accounts or experiences are invited to write to the following address.—*C. Good, Suite 5300, 1545 Lee St., Des Plaines IL 60018*

## PSICOPS OR BEYONDERS?

Two items in your May 1991 issue were of great interest to me, since one of my favorite pastimes is "Nut Cults By Mail" (I enjoy it so much I've started one of my own!)

Most people would see no connection between the *I See By the Papers* editorial by Mr. Kraig on the *Skeptical Inquirer*, and Mr. Linnell's information on the Beyonder's junk-mail cult. But it doesn't take too much study to spot them both as similar belief structures, although designed for very different audiences.

Make no mistake. PSICOP is based on belief, just like any other cult. Its function is to support that belief, provide a reference group and ego support for its members and perpetuate itself to continue its work. Its stated object is to protect potential victims from the evil money-grubbing charlatans preying on human gullibility.

A noble aim, just as the late Senator McCarthy's aim of protecting America from Communism or other more inflammatory examples from darker days of human history.

One can rarely go wrong in setting up an organization oriented against something, as there are so many people who fear being duped that they will pay you to tell them how to avoid it and join in the victory as the evil enemy's methods of trickery are laid bare.

Perhaps the Beyonder's literature is pure tripe, designed for the foolish, but it may well help people who are fresh enough to believe in positive action and growth, where the *Skeptical Inquirer* just creates a club for those who can only feel okay

when they are smashing something that can't be dissected or nailed down according to their mechanist belief system.

Thirty-five thousand *S. I.* readers, or millions who witness miracles daily? I choose the group that has more fun!—*Dr. O. Nenslo, Box 766, Cambridge MA 02142*

## LOYAL FATE READER NEEDS HELP

I am being cautious by renewing my subscription for only one year at a time since I am 89 years old. My sister is 93 and our mother lived to be 91.

I may have to buy a larger mobile home soon as I never throw away any FATE magazines.

I keep hoping that you will have a revealing article on the Pyramid. We were told by some publication some time ago that we would get some startling news from the Pyramid.

I remember reading advertising for a book written about 1970 in which they used the phrase "He walked America." It was supposed to be about a white man missionary similar to Jesus Christ who visited the American Indians. I don't know the name of the author or the title of the book. Has anyone ever heard of it?—*Mrs. Fayette S. Carr, Oklawaha FL*

## PENDULUM WORKS

I am writing to let you know how the pendulum works for me. Sometimes it refuses to answer, I suppose because either it does not know the answer, or it does not want me to know the answer, or it is none of my business.

I was asking questions because of some family problems we were having and I was not sure how to handle them. First I asked, Do you always tell the truth? YES.

Among other things, I asked if a certain family member (the cause of the trouble) was a happy person. NO. I asked if another member was happy. YES. And another. YES. Then, Am I a happy person?

The pendulum has a sense of humor. At that question, the key swung around and around in a big, three-inch circle! Not a simple yes or no, but it did answer.

I wondered where the pendulum was getting the answers. Is someone who has died giving you these answers? NO. Is God giving you the answers? YES (Emphatically). Is God in this room with me now? No answer. Finally, Do you get tired of answering questions? NO.

I repeated certain questions among the others just to make sure, and the answers were the same.—*Name Withheld.*

∞

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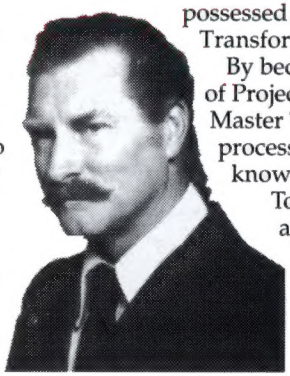

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